

Fruits Basket



The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



6

Natsuki Takaya

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Delving into the recesses of Kyo's past, we find the Sohma trio returning home on a rainy day. There, a mysterious man who has known Kyo for a long time meets them. Trust, loyalty and the bonds of family and friendship are tested, as Tohru must help Kyo deal with the "monsters" that he's been trying to avoid.



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Fruits Basket™

Volume 6

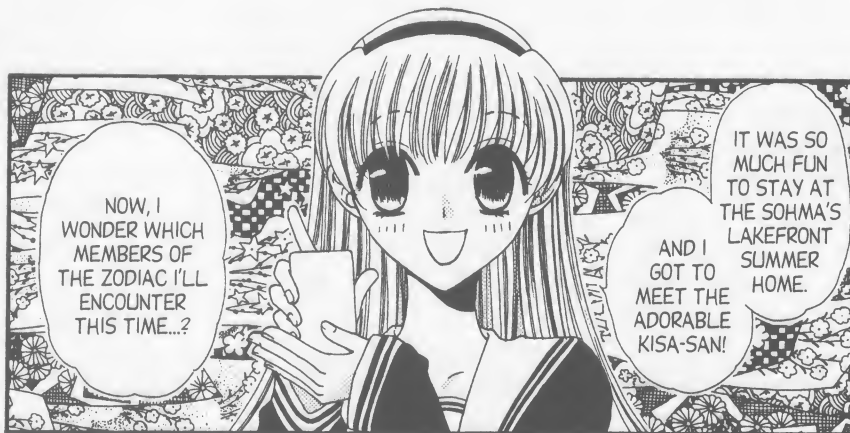
Guten
Morgen!



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!

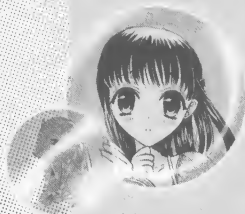


Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters



Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.

Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.



Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.

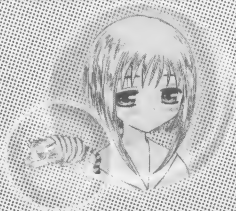


Tohru's Best Friends

Saki Hanajima Arisa Uotani

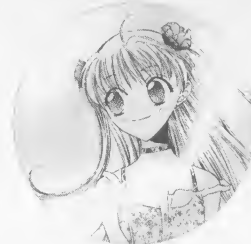
"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.

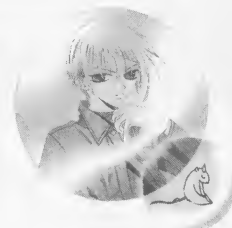


Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and Miso. But mostly Yuki.

Mabudachi Trio

Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



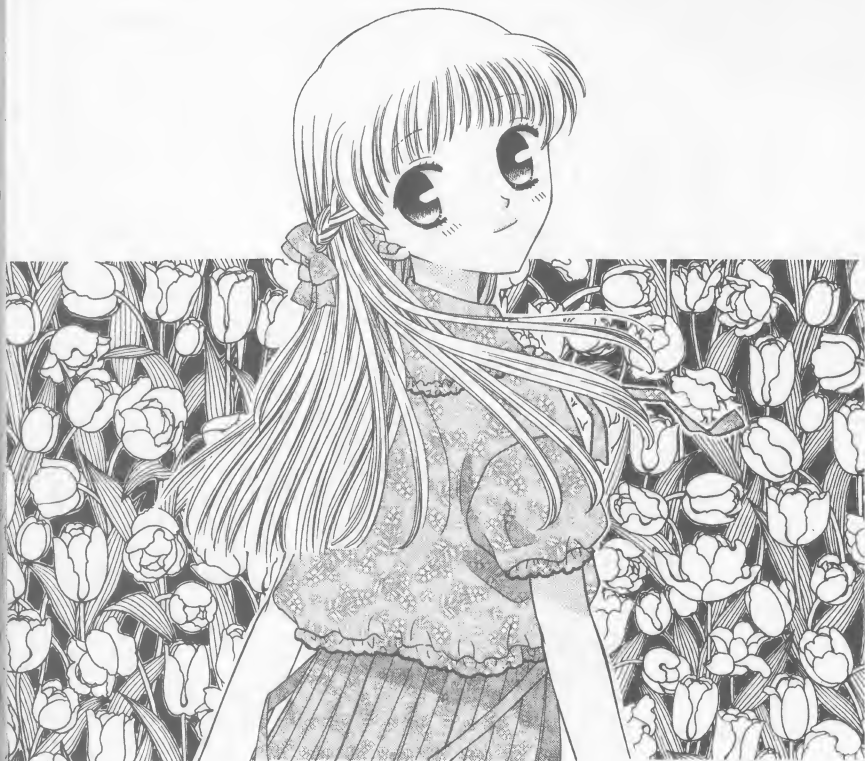
Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.

Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.





Fruits Basket™

Chapter 31



ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 1

I've been going through some hard times lately.
And on top of that, I had a fever of over 105°.

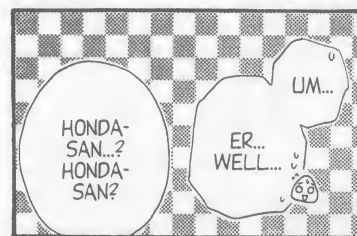
It's like Punch, Punch, Kick!

By the way, I tend to get sick on rainy days.

out of energy



*awkward silence





Y-YES!
I'M SORRY...

B-BUT...

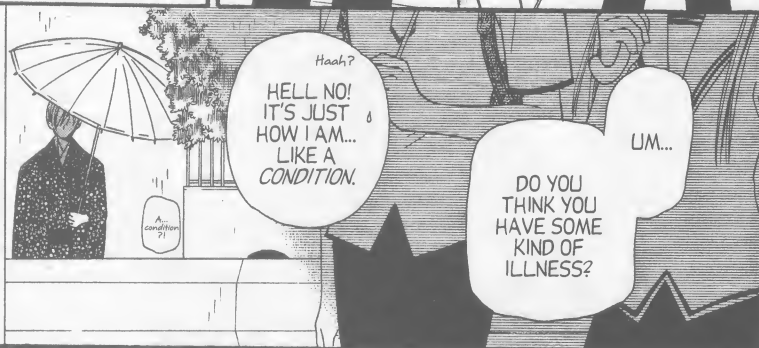
HONDA-SAN...
LET'S GO.

UGH...
Y...! YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE!

YOU'RE
MAKIN'
ME EVEN
MORE
TIRED!!

YOU WORRY
TOO MUCH
ABOUT
EVERYTHING!!

Aaagh!!



Haah?

HELL NO!
IT'S JUST
HOW I AM...
LIKE A
CONDITION.

UM...

DO YOU
THINK YOU
HAVE SOME
KIND OF
ILLNESS?



DON'T
"YES?" ME!!
WHY...

WHY
WOULD I...
STAND UNDER
A-- A GIRL'S
UMBRELLA
THAT A GIRL
IS HOLDING?!

EH
?!

AH! I-I'M
SORRY! THAT
IS... UM...
WELL...



LOOK,
YOU...!

YES?



THAT'S
EVEN
WORSE,
YOU
MORON
!!!

I KNOW YOU
DON'T REALLY
LIKE TO, BUT
MAYBE IF YOU
TURNED INTO
A CAT--

--I KNOW
IT'S KIND OF
FORWARD
OF ME-- BUT
MAYBE I COULD
HUG YOU AND
CARRY YOU
HO--

Fruits Basket 6 Part 1:

Hajimemashite and hello! I'm Takaya. Furuba has made it to the sixth volume. That means it's been almost two years since I started drawing it. Wooooow... (Gazing into the distance.) So the Volume 6 cover features Momiji. You know, **Momitchi!** He looks very young, but inside, he's the most mature of his generation of Sohmas. Right? "He had to be mature to deal with his youthful appearance and parental situation, right?" Well, yeah. It's kinda sad that way. But I also made him that way because it's cute! Recently, my hand hasn't been doing very well, so my handwriting is harder to read than usual, so gomen nasai. (I'm sorry!) Please enjoy Volume 6.





SLAM!



THE DOOR CLOSED?!

KYO-KUN, DEAR, WHAT'S WRONG?!

KYO-KUN?!

YEAH, IT'S CLOSED!
AND IT WON'T EVER OPEN AGAIN!!



KY-KY...

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A DOOR TO STOP HER...

KYO-KUN?!

*She hit her head
Just now, I heard a 'slam' sound...



WELCOME HOME...

tee hee hee!
♡

...MY KYO-KUN!



YOU'RE SO CRUEL...

YOU'RE SO CRUEL, EVEN THOUGH...

KAGURA-SA...

KYO-KUN...

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU!!

CAN'T I COME TO SEE YOU WHEN I WANT TO?

WHY NOT.....?

EVEN THOUGH I LOVE YOU SOOOO MUCH!!

WOULD YOU HURRY UP AND FIGURE OUT THAT THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU?!



OPEN IT!

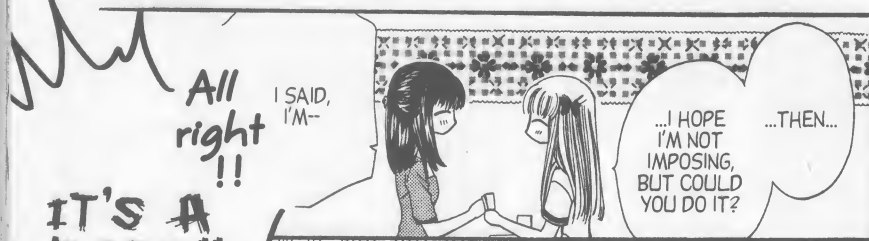
Then!
IN THAT CASE, DON'T COME!!

I DON'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS.

HUH?

TELL ME YOUR BUSINESS AND LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!!

WELL?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?





THAT IS, IF
YOU DON'T
MIND THE
USUAL
PLACE.

C'MON.

BUT...

...IF THE
DAY COMES
WHEN I'M
ALLOWED
TO KNOW
THEIR
SECRETS...

LET'S GO
ON A DATE.

OKAY

...I WANT TO
BE THE KIND
OF PERSON
WHO CAN
ACCEPT THEM
FOR WHO
THEY ARE.

IT'S
FUNNY.

AFTER
ALL
THIS
TIME...

...THERE'S
STILL SO
MUCH I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THEM.

EH
?!
NO, I
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY-!

UH...
UM...

DON'T
BOTHR.
I THINK IT
WILL START
RAINING
AGAIN SOON.

UM...
I SHOULD
...UH...
START THE
LAUNDRY!..

MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
YOU DON'T OFTEN GET
THE OPPORTUNITY,
TOHRU-KUN, SO WHY
DON'T YOU GO ON
A DATE WITH
YUKI-KUN?



mutter

KYO-KUN...

THAT'S
NONE OF
YOUR DAMN
BUSINESS!!

SHUT
UP!!

MUTTER CHATTER MUTTER



YELLING AT
A GIRL IN
PUBLIC IS
THE WORST
THING YOU
CAN DO!!



TOHRU-
KUN...

HEY,
KYO-
KUN?

...STILL
DOESN'T
KNOW, DOES
SHE?

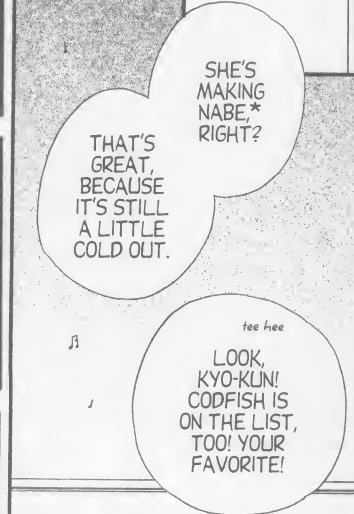


...GOING
TO KEEP
HIDING IT
FOREVER?

ARE
YOU...

寄って

Yotteke Market



SHE'S
MAKING
NABE,*
RIGHT?

THAT'S
GREAT,
BECAUSE
IT'S STILL
A LITTLE
COLD OUT.

tee hee

LOOK,
KYO-KUN!
CODFISH IS
ON THE LIST,
TOO! YOUR
FAVORITE!



*nabe: hot pot; stew

THAT
TIME...

YOU DON'T
KNOW...

THAT'S
WHY I...

THAT'S
WHY
YOU'D
WHAT?

YOU
WOULD
CRY IF
I TOLD YOU,
KYO-KUN.

So it's a
secret!

HUH?

NOW IT'S
TIME FOR
CHECKOUT.

HEY...
WHAT
IS IT?

C'MON.
LET'S GO,
KYO-KUN.

HEY!

NORMALLY,
PEOPLE
WOULD
AVOID ME.

HERE.
LET'S
GO OVER
THERE.

OHH,
OHH, KYO-KUN!
THIS IS SO
EMBARRASSING!

WHY...

WHY
DO YOU...
CARE SO
MUCH
ABOUT ME
ANYWAY?

KEEP THEIR
DISTANCE...

IT'S
WEIRD.

NORMALLY
...

whisper
whisper



NORMALLY...

...PEOPLE
WOULD
AVOID ME,
KEEP THEIR
DISTANCE."

HAVEN'T YOU
REALIZED?



BUT ONLY
HALFWAY,
OKAY?!



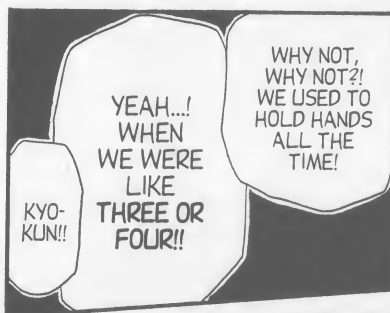
Okay!!



NOT A
CHANCE.

LET'S
HOLD
HANDS ON
THE WAY
HOME.
♡

tee hee



KYO-
KUN!!

YEAH...!
WHEN
WE WERE
LIKE
THREE OR
FOUR!!

WHY NOT,
WHY NOT?!
WE USED TO
HOLD HANDS
ALL THE
TIME!

SHE'S NOT
GOING TO
TELL ME...



UH-OH.

IT LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
GOING TO
RAIN AGAIN.



tremble
tremble

I JUST HAVE
TO HOLD
YOUR HAND,
RIGHT?! FINE!

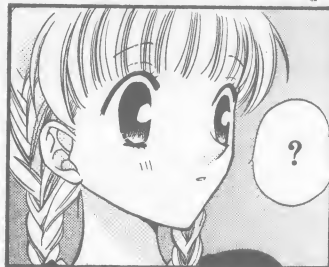
HERE!!

YOU'RE
SO
COLD...

chatter

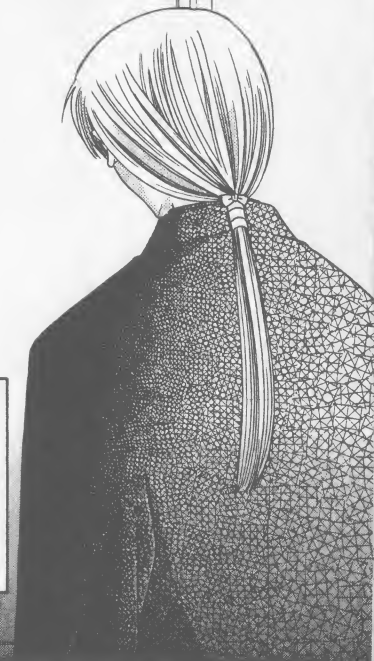
chatter

chatter





*shishou: a martial arts master



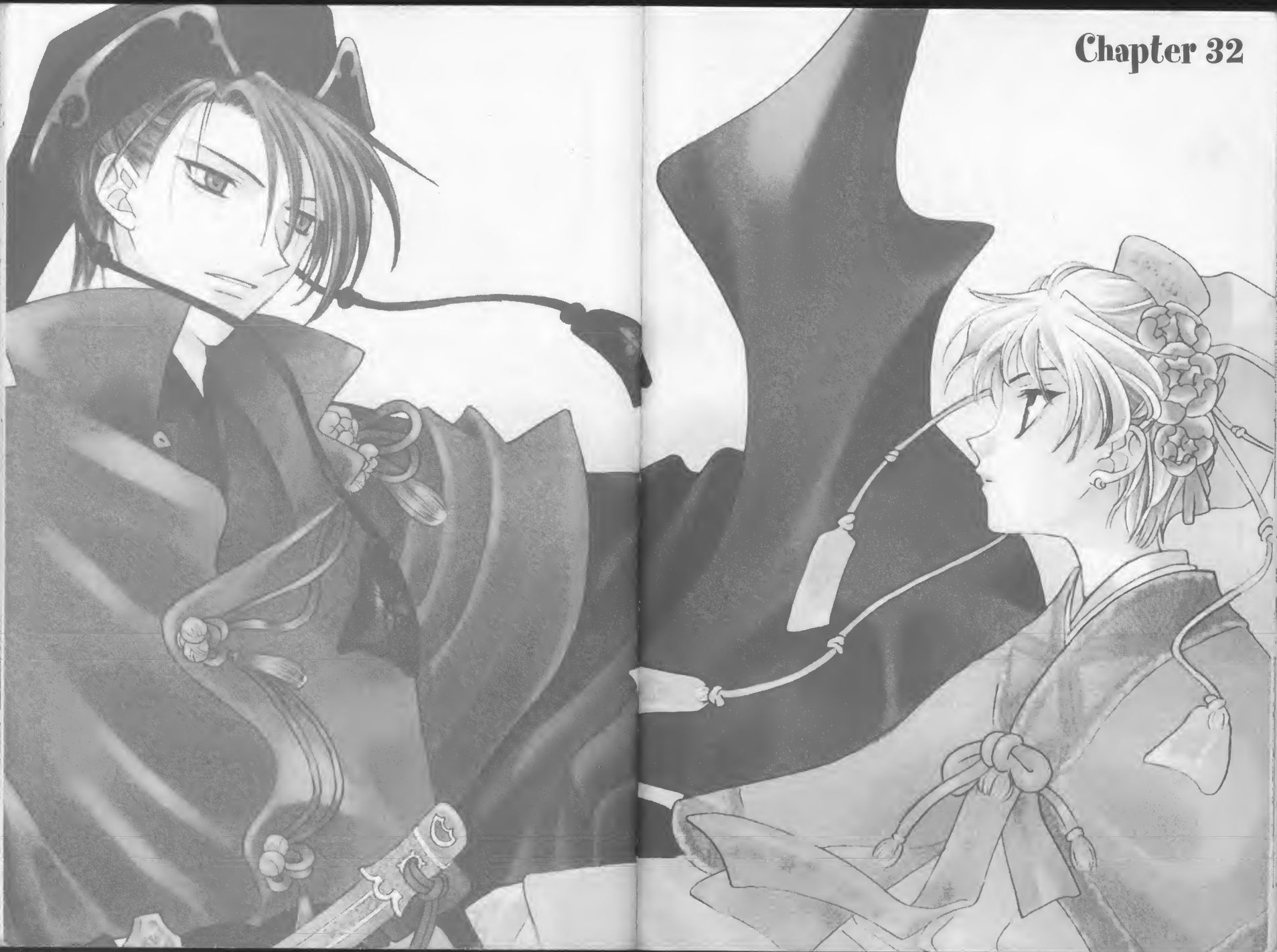
People say to use everything...



Like pictures that you can only see online and stuff. Like Momiji, I put a lot of my own preferences into Kisa. It's really fun to draw her. I'm a real girly-girl at heart, so I would have liked to try wearing flowy dresses or maid outfits at least once, but it looks like that dream will go unfulfilled (laugh). Too bad.



Chapter 32





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 2

There are those who think, "I don't need them to love everything about me..." And there are others who think that, "I want them to love everything." Both are valid points of view. I really can't say one way is better than the other. Both exist. Kyo is the former.

People say to use...



It's a rough sketch, so Mine's maid outfit is too plain. I'm sorry. Next time I'll draw it more seriously. (Huh?) The outfit Aaya is wearing was mostly designed by Aaya and made by Mine.

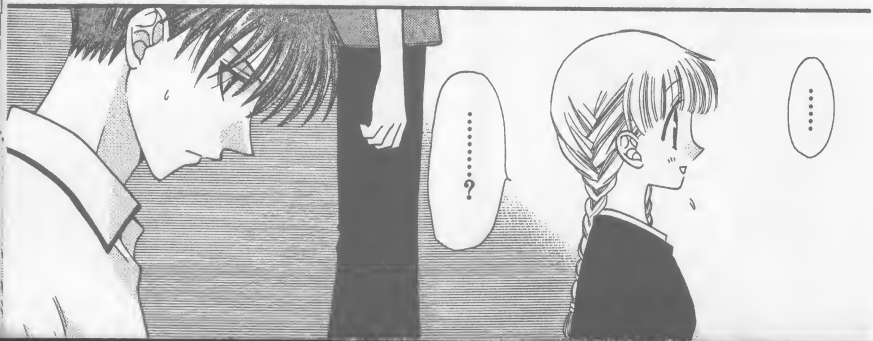
Fruits Basket 6
Part 2:

A lot of people have told me, "It's okay to talk about games!" I'm glad. And so, without delay... (laugh) I finally finished PERSONA 2: INNOCENT SIN. (I had stopped in the middle.) I stopped right before the last boss, like with the first game. I wonder if it's inevitable...? For me, it is. I really liked Ginko. She was so cute when she said, "Aya~" and stuff. Sadly, my Playstation is on its last legs, so during the ending song, it started skipping (laugh). Talk about Aya~. Letting the credits go without sound... I'm playing ETERNAL PUNISHMENT on my PS2. (laugh)

(INNOCENT SIN and ETERNAL PUNISHMENT are both sequels to the sleeper hit RPG PERSONA. Only ETERNAL PUNISHMENT was released in the U.S. -ed.)



*ohisashiburi: The reason everyone is saying "It's been a long time," is because in Japan, there is a ritual phrase, "ohisashiburi," which is used when greeting someone you haven't seen in a while. It's similar to the way Japanese folk always say "Okaeri" (welcome home) when someone comes home, or "itadakimasu" (thanks for the food) before eating.







I'M
SORRY...

...FOR MY
DISRESPECT.

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

I UNDERSTAND.

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
THE SAME
IN FRONT
OF YUKI.

...



...IN FRONT OF
YUN-CHAN.

ESPECIALLY
...

whisper
whisper

whisper

...BUT HE
DOESN'T
WANT TO
SHOW IT.

KYO-KUN IS
ACTUALLY
REALLY
HAPPY...



clack

KYO?

I'M
COMING
IN.

SHISHOU.

...OH, I SEE
YOU'VE
BEEN DOING
A LOT OF
READING.

They're Shigure's books.



I'M GLAD
TO SEE
YOU, TOO.

...IS SHISHOU-
SAN NOT
ONE OF THE
ZODIAC?

SO...





YES. I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE AWAY FROM THE DOJO ANY LONGER.

SO NOW YOUR TRAINING JOURNEY IS OVER?

ALL RIGHT, THEN!



I CAN GO BACK TO THE DOJO TOO, RIGHT?!

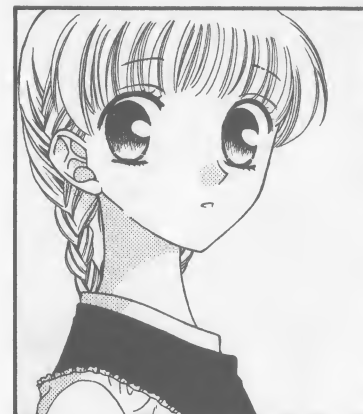


YOU PROMISED BEFORE YOU LEFT!



HIS REAL...

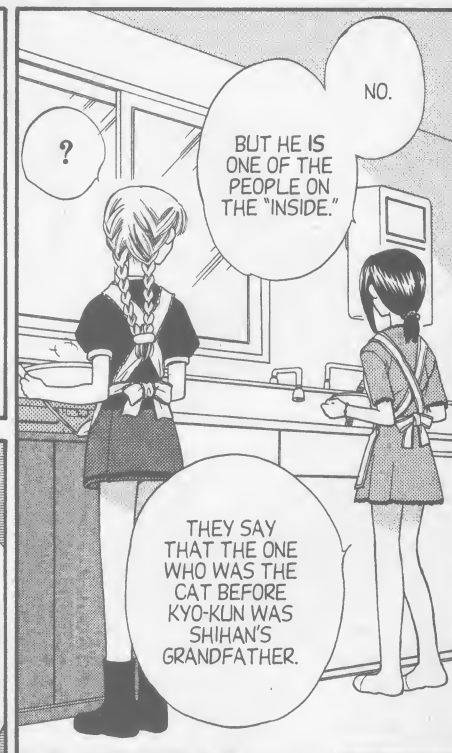
...FATHER...



THAT'S WHY...



...SHIHAN MIGHT BE THE ONE WHO CAN BEST RELATE TO KYO-KUN.



NO.

BUT HE IS ONE OF THE PEOPLE ON THE "INSIDE."

THEY SAY THAT THE ONE WHO WAS THE CAT BEFORE KYO-KUN WAS SHIHAN'S GRANDFATHER.



...AS IF HE WERE HIS REAL FATHER.

BUT IT'S LIKE SHIHAN CARES FOR KYO-KUN EVEN MORE THAN THAT.

HE WATCHED OVER KYO-KUN SO THAT HE WOULDN'T GET HURT...

I...

...NEVER
ASKED
TO BE
HEALED.

I HATE
IT HERE.



SOMETIMES,
IT GETS SO
BAD...

DROWNING IN
LUKEWARM
WATER OR
SOMETHING.
SOMETIMES...

I FEEL
LIKE I'M
DROWNING!

I HATE
IT HERE.

...I CAN'T
STAND IT.



I'M
SORRY...

YOU
ARE TO
CONTINUE
TO LIVE
HERE.

"WHEN I
COME BACK,
COME STAY
WITH ME
AGAIN."

"NOW WE
MUST PART
WAYS UNTIL
THAT DAY."

WHETHER
YOUR COMING
TO LIVE WITH
THAT GIRL...

...IS A
COINCIDENCE
OR AN
INEVITABILITY
...

...IT HAS A
HEALING
EFFECT ON
YOU.

SHISHOU.



NO.

YOU'RE NOT
SCARED OF
AKITO, TOO,
ARE YOU?

WHAT...?
YOU'RE
BREAKING
YOUR
PROMISE?

I HAVE
COME TO THE
CONCLUSION
THAT THIS
IS THE BEST
ENVIRONMENT
FOR YOU.



Around there somewhere



KYO...



THINGS
MIGHT
GET
NOISY.

I APOLOGIZE
IN ADVANCE.

TONIGHT
...

...I'M GOING
TO TAKE
IT OFF.

...I THOUGHT
THAT, FOR
HER, HE
MIGHT OPEN
HIS HEART.

AND
THAT SHE,
IN TURN,
MIGHT
ACCEPT IT.

...IS TO
DO THIS
NOW.

AND THE
ONLY WAY
TO SEE IF
THIS IS THE
CASE...

WHAT
MADE
YOU COME
TO THAT
DECISION SO
SUDDENLY?

ISN'T
THAT A
LITTLE
RASH?

TODAY,
WHEN I
SAW...

...THAT
GIRL'S
FACE...

TODAY...



...I
DON'T.

THE TWO OF
YOU MUST
HAVE A LOT
TO TALK
ABOUT, KYO-
KUN.

AH!

OH YEAH.
UM... IF I
COULD...

SOMEDAY I
WOULD REALLY
LIKE TO SEE...

...A MATCH
BETWEEN
YOU AND
SHISHOU-
SAN!

Honda-
san,
what
should I
do with
this?

Ah! Yes,
that's
...



"NNNN... IT LOOKS LIKE I STILL NEED A LOT OF TRAINING, TOO."

"HA HA!"

"LOOK AT IT! HOW THE HECK COULD YOU SCREW UP SOMETHING SO SIMPLE, SHISHOU?"

YOU REALLY ARE NO GOOD AT THIS."

WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE...

...ARE YOU STILL WILLING TO TAKE THE ONE IN TEN-THOUSAND CHANCE?

EXCUSE ME, BUT TONIGHT MAY I BORROW SOME OF YOUR TIME?

EVEN SO...

EVEN SO, I WANT TO TAKE THE CHANCE...
...ON HER.

HE MIGHT COME TO HATE EVEN YOU.

SO EVEN YOU, KAZUMA-DONO, ARE GOING TO ENTRUST EVERYTHING...

...TO HER?

BUT...

...YOU HAVE NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS WILL SUCCEED.

EVEN IF SHE DOES ACCEPT HIM, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT KYO WILL REJECT HER.

THIS TIME, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT KYO WILL BREAK.

HE MAY NEVER...

...SMILE AGAIN.

"AW, MAN"

I ACCEPT THAT
MY LIFE IS
WORTHLESS
BECAUSE I WAS
BORN THE CAT!



.....
!

AND
IT'S THE
RAT'S--

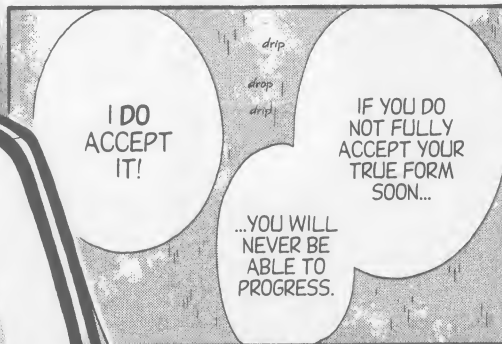
I DO
ACCEPT
IT!

IF YOU DO
NOT FULLY
ACCEPT YOUR
TRUE FORM
SOON...

...YOU WILL
NEVER BE
ABLE TO
PROGRESS.

--IT'S HIS
FAULT...

...BECAUSE HE
STARTED ALL
OF THIS!!



drip

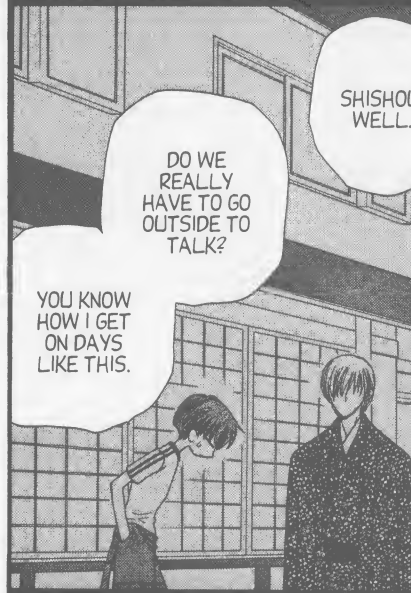
drop

drip

DO WE
REALLY
HAVE TO GO
OUTSIDE TO
TALK?

SHISHOU...
WELL...

YOU KNOW
HOW I GET
ON DAYS
LIKE THIS.

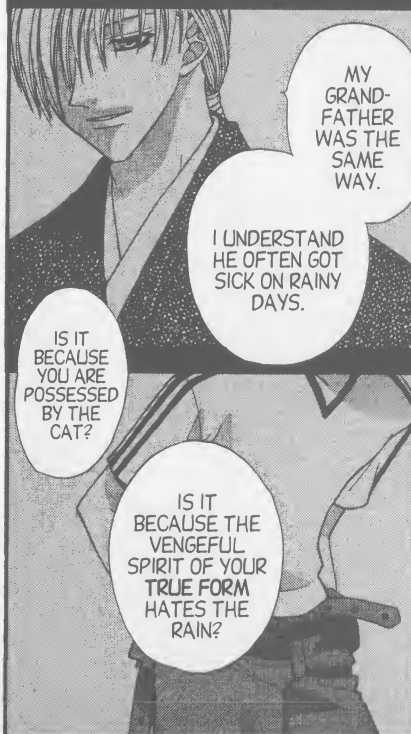


MY
GRAND-
FATHER
WAS THE
SAME
WAY.

I UNDERSTAND
HE OFTEN GOT
SICK ON RAINY
DAYS.

IS IT
BECAUSE
YOU ARE
POSSESSED
BY THE
CAT?

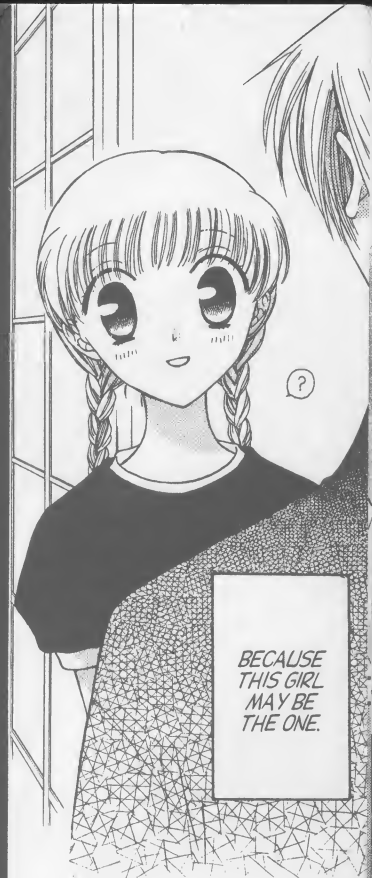
IS IT
BECAUSE THE
VENGEFUL
SPIRIT OF YOUR
TRUE FORM
HATES THE
RAIN?



BECAUSE
THIS GIRL
MAY BE
THE ONE.

PLEASE
...

PLEASE...
FOR KYO.



...IS THAT
THE WAY
YOU WANT
TO DIE?

AND...

COMPLETELY
ALONE.

LIKE MY
GRANDFATHER.

YOU SAID
YOURSELF...

...THAT YOU
HATE IT
HERE.

BUT
THAT'S
NOT IT...
IT'S NOT
THAT YOU
HATE IT.

IT'S THAT
YOU'RE
AFRAID. YOU
WANT TO
RUN AWAY.

ARE YOU
GOING TO
CONTINUE TO
LIVE THAT
WAY...

...EVEN
NOW?

YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED...

"IF I DIE TOO,
YOU'LL BE
SATISFIED,
RIGHT?!"

"IT'S HIS
FAULT!
IT'S ALL
HIS FAULT!"


STOPPING
YOUR EARS,
CLOSING YOUR
EYES...

SHUTTING
YOURSELF
OFF FROM
THE WORLD
WITH YOUR
HATRED OF
YUKI.

IS THAT THE
ONLY WAY
YOU WANT
TO LIVE?

"THEN
YOU'LL BE
SATISFIED,
RIGHT?"

"I'LL KILL
HIM AND
THEN
I'LL KILL
MYSELF!"



WILL YOU
LOSE HER,
OR WILL
YOU NOT?

I WILL
HELP YOU
FIND THE
ANSWER.

YOU'RE
WRON-

YOU
LEAVE ME
NO OTHER
CHOICE.


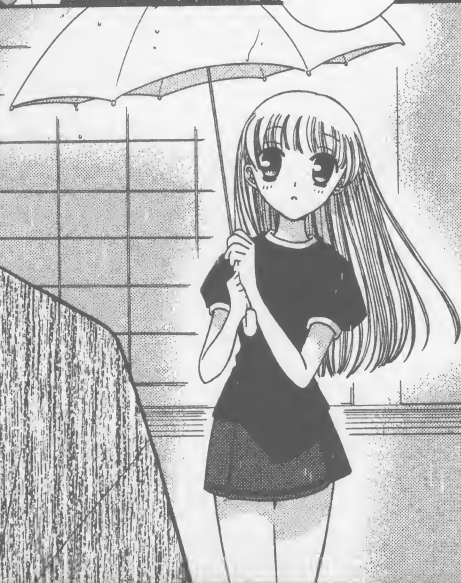
I WILL TAKE
AWAY YOUR
MEANS OF
ESCAPE.



KYO...

...DISCOVER
FOR YOUR-
SELF...

...WHETHER
OR NOT YOUR
BIRTHRIGHT
REALLY
MAKES YOU
"WORTHLESS."



...THE TRUTH
IS, YOU DO NOT
WANT HER TO
KNOW YOUR
TRUE FORM.

YOU ARE
AFRAID
OF LOSING
HER IF SHE
FINDS OUT.

THE WARM
FEELING YOU
COMPARED TO
"DROWNING IN
LUKEWARM
WATER"...

...YOU KNOW
THAT IT WILL
HEAL YOU.

BUT...

YOU ARE JUST
TRYING TO RUN
AWAY FROM THAT
UNCERTAINTY.

DON'T LOOK...

"I
WON'T
LET
ANYONE
SEE
YOU."

"NO ONE
LOOK..."

DON'T
LOOK...

...AT
MY
CHILD.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT...

I LOVE
YOU,
LITTLE
ONE.

Chapter 33

"AND WHAT'S
THAT
SMELL?"

"HIS BODY'S
ALL WARPED
AND UGLY."

"HE SMELLS
TERRIBLE."

"IS THIS..."

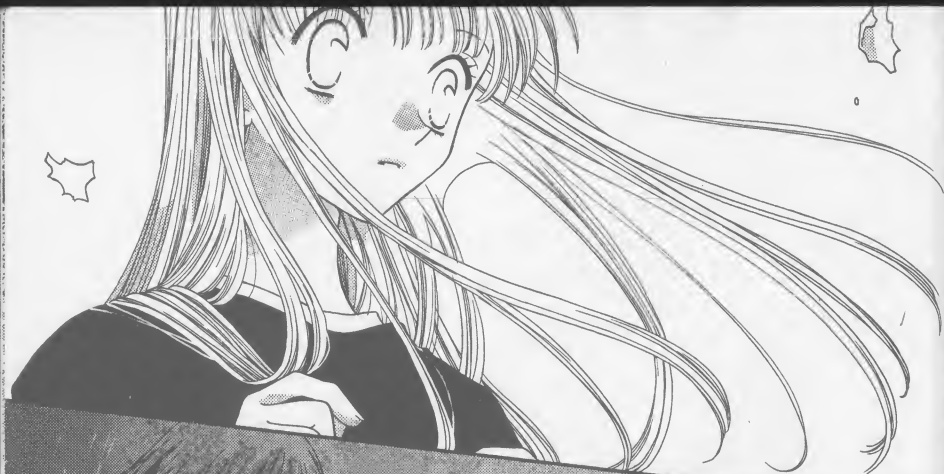
"...THE CAT
SPIRITS..."

"IT
SMELLS
LIKE
SOME-
THING'S
ROTTING."

"THIS IS KYO'S
TRUE FORM?"

DON'T
LOOK
AT
ME!!

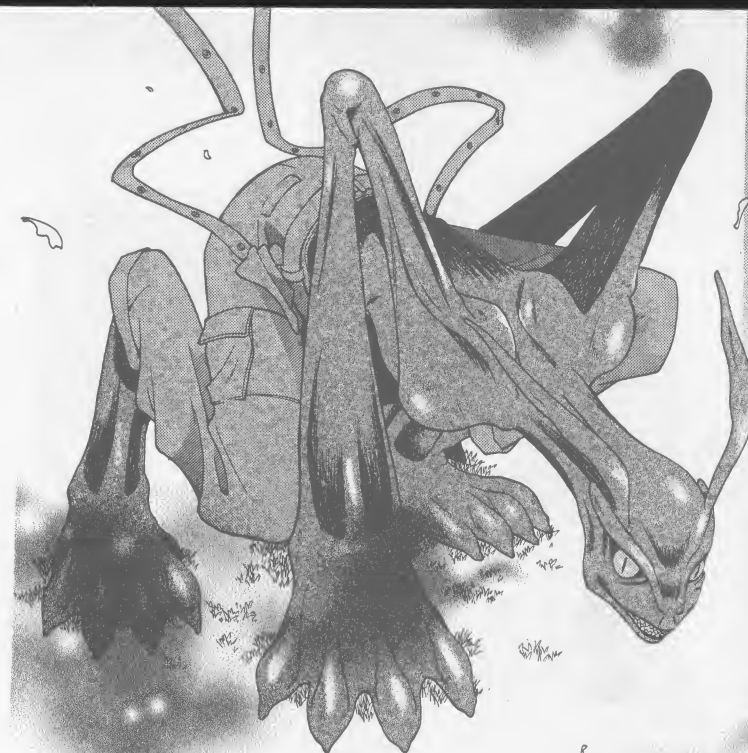
"IT'S
DISGUSTING."



KYO...

.....

...KUN



"...TRUE FORM?"



SHE
SAW
ME...

SHE
SAW
ME...

SHE
SAW
ME...

IT'S
OVER!

IT'S OVER
EVERYTHING
...

IT'S
ALL...

...HOPELESS.

"IT'S
DISGUSTING."

!!



...OTHER
FORM.

THAT...

...IS WHAT
HE HAS BEEN
HIDING. THE
CAT'S...

WERE
YOU...

...DISGUSTED?

ONLY THOSE
POSSESSED BY
THE CAT CHANGE
INTO THAT
GROTESQUE
FORM.

DID YOU
THINK HE WAS
FRIGHTENING?

IT'S LIKE
THE
STENCH OF
ROTTING
FLESH IS
EVERY-
WHERE...

WHAT AN
INCREDIBLY
HORRIBLE
SMELL!

BLEH!

gag

GUAGH!

UH.....

たは
ん

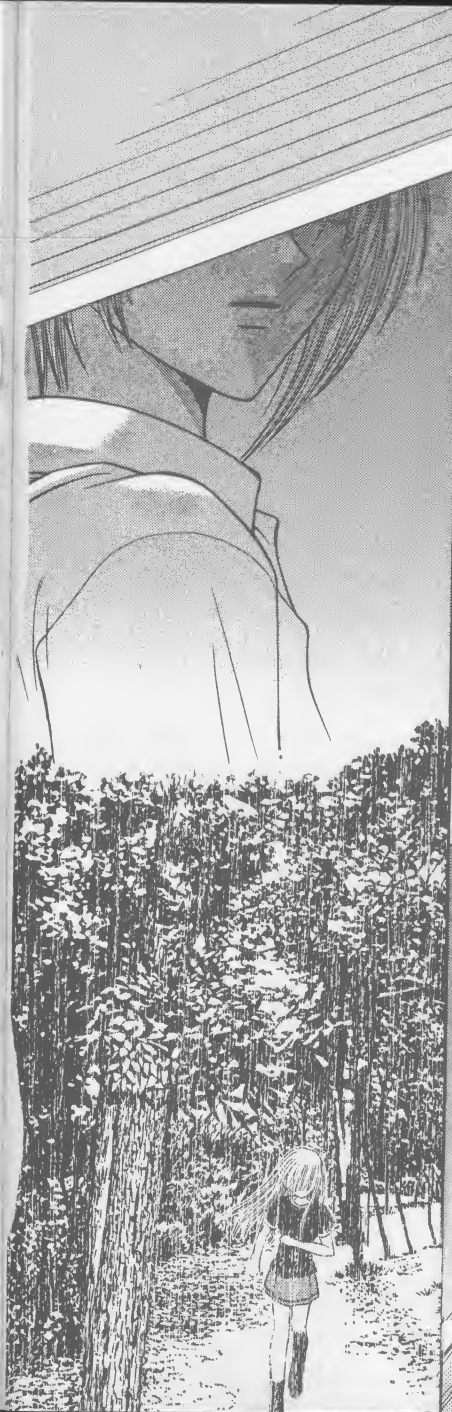
EVEN
VOMITING
DOESN'T
MAKE IT
BETTER...

KYO-KUN'S
OTHER
FORM.

I'VE
NEVER
SMELLED
ANYTHING
LIKE IT.

I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE IT.

THAT
WAS KYO-
KUN...



WILL
YOU...

...HEAL
HIM?



"WHAT'S
WRONG?"

DID
SOME-
THING
HAPPEN
AGAIN?"

"KYO..."

"MOMMY
LOVES
YOU."

STOP
IT!!

"DID
AKITO SAY
SOME-
THING?"

"IT'S
ALL
RIGHT."

STOP...



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

I CAN'T
BREATHE!

BUT...

BUT...

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

IT'S TO
MUCH FOR
ME TO
HANDLE...

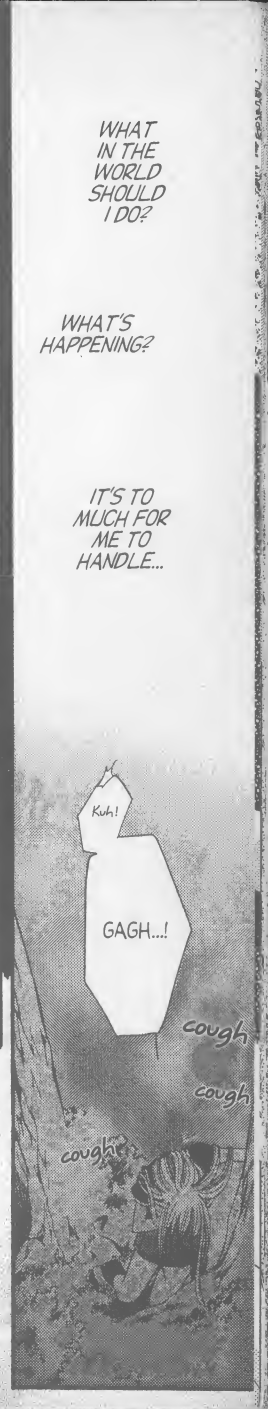
Kuh!

GAGH...!

cough

cough

cough



Fruits Basket 6
Part 3:

I'm still in the middle of *SUMMON NIGHT*. But *HARUKANARU TOKI NO NAKA DE* was amazing. This might be the fastest I've ever completed a game. I think the captures I made might have even been helpful to someone. (Don't flatter yourself. They weren't.) And again, my Playstation's in bad shape, so there were sound issues. Such a tragedy... Still, I played as if entranced. I love Tomomasa-san and Inori-kun. (Those two don't match, Takaya.) I can't wait to play *ANGELIQUE TROIS*. There should be a lot more of them! I love Love-sim games! They fill my heart with joy. Even when a game isn't a love-sim, I like it when designers throw in a little romance. Yay!





STOP...

I'M GOING TO
MAKE YOU
MISERABLE!



GET
LOST!



KYO-
KUN...
BUT...

KYO-
KU...

PLEASE,
STOP.

BUT I...



"BECAUSE I
AM YOUR..."



DON'T
TOUCH
ME!!!



I'M
DISGUSTING,
AREN'T I?!

I'M
SICKENING,
AREN'T I?!

WHY DON'T
YOU LEAVE
ME ALONE?!

I DON'T
WANT
YOUR
PITY!!

I'M
BEGGING
YOU...

THAT
SHE'LL
NEVER
WANT TO
LOOK BACK!

I'LL MAKE
IT SO BAD...

...THAT
SHE'LL
NEVER
FEEL
SORRY FOR
ME AGAIN.

"AKITO'S
WRONG. YOU
ARE HUMAN,
LIKE EVERY-
ONE ELSE."

HAVING
THIS FATE
FORCED
ON ME.

BEING
MISERABLE...

I HATE
THIS!

LOSING
HER, BEING
PITIED...

"YOU'RE JUST
UNDER AN EVIL
SPELL FOR A
LITTLE WHILE
THAT MAKES
YOU TURN INTO
THAT."

GET
LOST!!

YOU DRIVE
ME CRAZY!

I CAN'T
STAND TO
LOOK AT
YOU!!

...I'LL MAKE IT
SO BAD, I'LL
HURT HER SO
MUCH...

IF I'M GOING
TO LOSE HER
ANYWAY...

...THAT IT
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
HURT ANY
MORE!

NEXT TIME
I'LL CUT YOUR
FACE TO
PIECES!!

DON'T FORCE
THAT LOVE
ON ME!

I DON'T
NEED IT...
I DON'T
NEED IT!

I DON'T CARE
IF YOU FIND
ME SCARY...

YOUR MOTHER
LOVED YOU
MORE THAN
ANYONE!!

STOP
IT!!

I...I JUST...

...MORE
THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE...

"IF IT WOULD
HELP YOU, YOUR
MOTHER..."

...WOULD DIE
FOR YOU!"

WHY DO YOU
ALWAYS SAY
THINGS LIKE
THAT?

YOU
WON'T EVEN
ACKNOWLEDGE
THE REAL
ME...

...SO WHY ARE
YOU ALWAYS
ACTING LIKE
YOU LOVE ME
SO MUCH?

THAT'S
NOT TRUE.

"YOU'RE MY
SON AND I'M
SO PROUD
OF YOU."

IF IT WAS,
WHY DIDN'T
YOU EVER
LET ME GO
OUTSIDE?

"YOU'RE SO
CUTE, I WON'T
LET ANYONE
ELSE SEE
YOU."

YOU WERE
ASHAMED,
WEREN'T
YOU?

NO, I
LOVE
YOU.

YOU
REALLY
WERE
SCARED,
WEREN'T
YOU?

THAT'S
WHY
EVERY
DAY,
DOZENS
OF TIMES
...

... YOU
CHECKED
TO MAKE
SURE MY
BEADS
HADN'T
COME OFF,
RIGHT?

YOU
CHANGED
RIGHT
BACK."

"AS
PROOF,
LOOK..."

"IT'S
ALL
RIGHT."

"I'M NOT
SCARED
A BIT."

THAT'S
A LIE.

DON'T
YOU GET
IT?!

I COULDN'T
BEAR IT IF
YOU DON'T!

LET
GO...

STOP
IT!

NO! I
DON'T
GET IT!

I'M...
SCARED...

*"DID YOU
THINK HE WAS
FRIGHTENING?"*

YOU JUST
HAVE TO...

*I'M WORRIED
THAT KYO-KUN
WON'T COME
HOME...*

...EVER AGAIN.

IT'S
SCARY...

I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE IT.

RIGHT
NOW... KYO-
KUN...

...LISTENING TO
YOUR VOICE,
IT'S LIKE IT'S
NOT YOU.

*...I WANTED
US TO BE
TOGETHER.*

?!

YOU
HAVE
TO GO
BACK.

BACK
HOME.

...LET'S
GO BACK.

YOU...

...LIKE
WE DID
BEFORE...

TOGETHER.

...SHARE
OUR
TROUBLES
...

...EAT
MEALS,
STUDY...

I WANT US
TO LIVE...

"TOGETHER."

I WANT
TO STAY
TOGETHER!!

BUT DIDN'T...

I'M BEING...

...KYO-KUN
TELL ME--

...SO SELFISH.

...KYO-KUN
TO SUFFER
ALONE.

WHEN
THINGS
GET
TOUGH...

...WHEN
YOU'RE
SCARED,
WHEN
YOU'RE
WEAK...

...I WANT
YOU TO
TELL ME.

I WANT YOU
TO LET ME
CARE ABOUT
YOU.

I WANT
TO BE
TOGETHER.

FROM
NOW
ON...

...JUST
LIKE YOU
LISTENED
TO MY
COMPLAINTS,
KYO-KUN...

...I WANT
YOU TO
LET ME
LISTEN TO
YOURS.

I JUST
DON'T
WANT...

BUT...

BUT...

BUT FROM
NOW ON...

...I WANT TO
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING...

BUT, MOM...

BECAUSE
BEING
SCARED...

YOU ALWAYS
TOLD ME
THAT YOU
LOVED ME,
BUT YOU
WOULDN'T
EVEN LOOK
AT ME.

...IS PROOF
THAT YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
LOOKING AT
MY UGLINESS.

YOU WOULDN'T
EVEN THINK
ABOUT ME.

...ALL
ALONG.

TO HAVE
SOMEONE TO
SHARE MY
WORRIES
WITH.

DID YOU
REALLY
THINK IT WAS
ENOUGH TO
JUST TALK
LIKE YOU
LOVED ME?

THIS IS
WHAT I
WANTED...

LET'S GO
ON LIVING...

BUT EVEN
SO...

IT'S OKAY IF
YOU DON'T
LOVE MY
HIDEOUS
SELF.

IT'S OKAY
IF YOU'RE
SCARED.

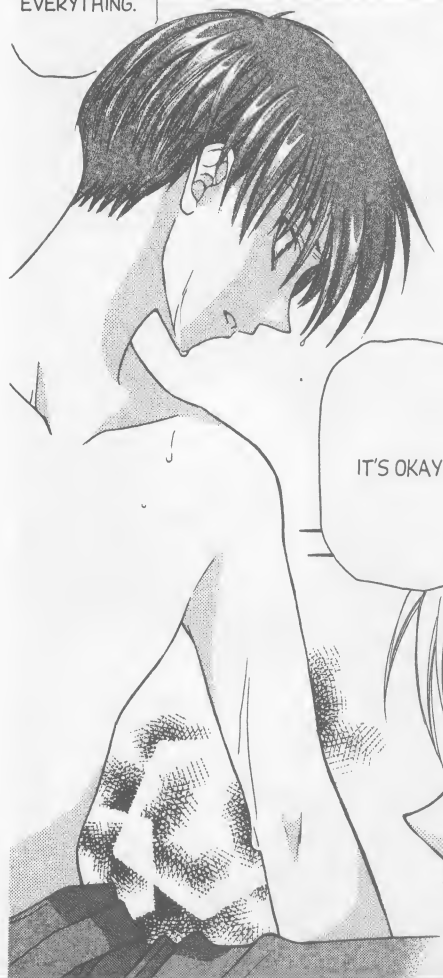
...TOGETHER.



y...

YOU...

YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO...LOVE
EVERYTHING.



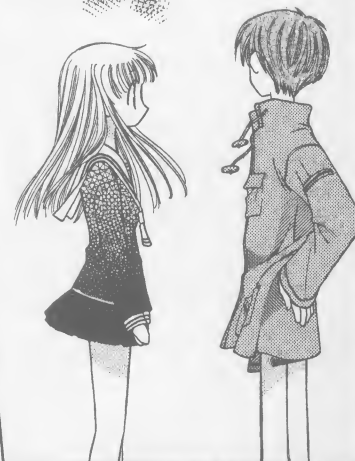
IT'S OKAY...

...IF YOU
WERE
SCARED.

IT'S
OKAY...

IT'S
OKAY TO BE
SELFISH
ONCE IN A
WHILE.

DIDN'T
YOU SAY
THAT TO
ME?



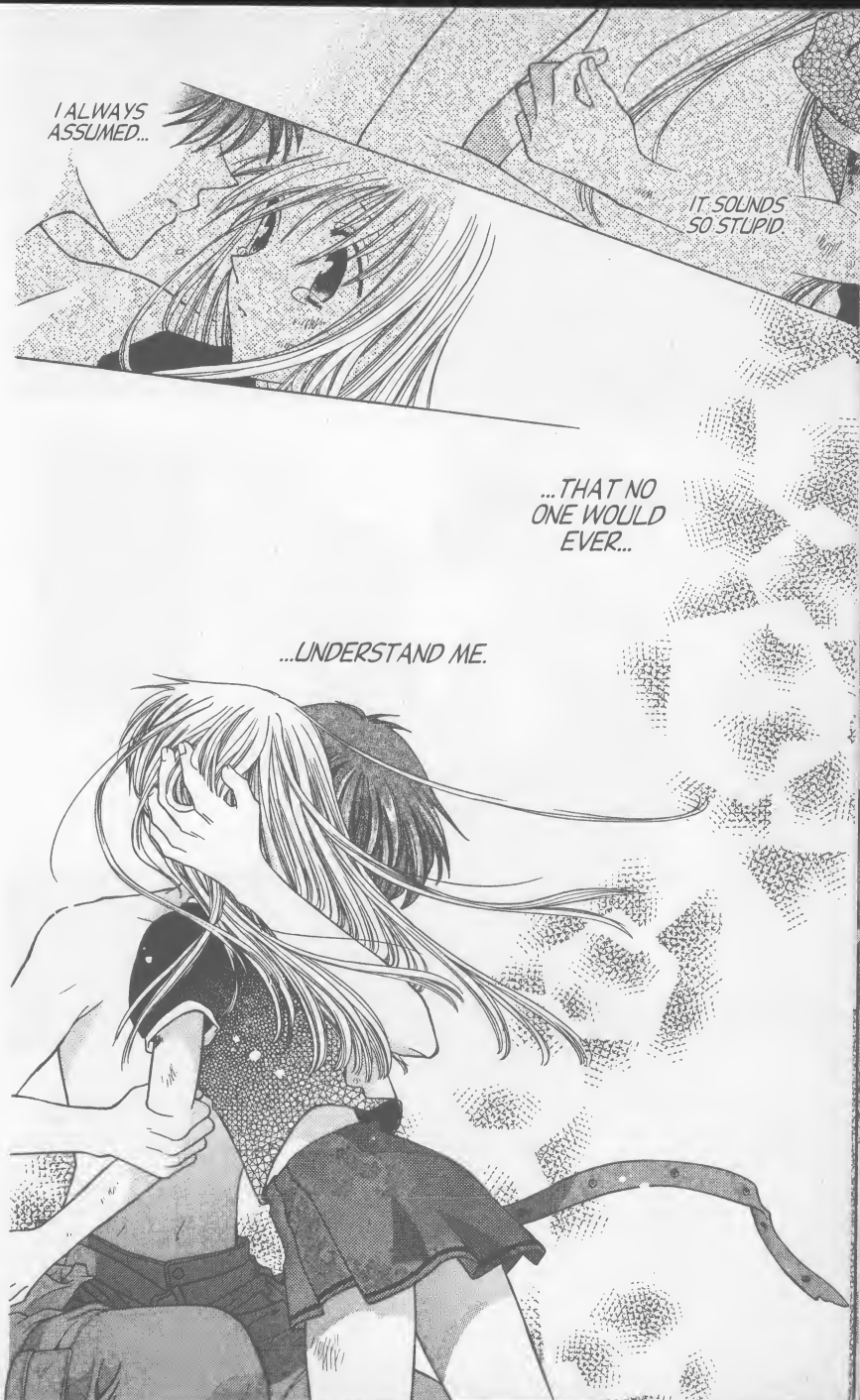


I NEVER
THOUGHT...

...TOHRU.

TOHRU...!

...I'D HEAR
THOSE WORDS.

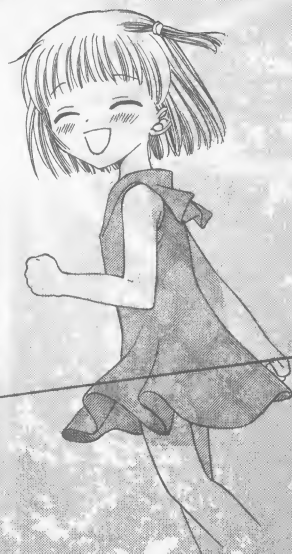


I ALWAYS
ASSUMED...

IT SOUNDS
SO STUPID

...THAT NO
ONE WOULD
EVER...

...UNDERSTAND ME.



HOW CAN
I ASK FOR
THAT?

I DON'T...

... DESERVE
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

YOU ENDED UP
NEAR ME BY
MISTAKE.



...I WANT
TO CARE
FOR YOU.



THIS
TIME...

THIS TIME
WILL BE
DIFFERENT.



KYO-
KUN...?

WHY...



...WOULD
SOMEONE
LIKE YOU...

...STAY
NEAR ME...



...AND
CRY FOR
ME?

JUST
LIKE
THAT...

...THE UGLY
EMOTIONS
INSIDE ME...

...THE MUD-
COVERED
ANXIETY...



ONE BY ONE
YOU MELT
THEM AWAY.

Chapter 34

"ONLY SHE HADN'T HAD THAT CAT CHILD."

"POOR THING."

"I GUESS IT WAS SO HARD ON HER HAVING THE CAT AS A SON THAT SHE KILLED HERSELF."

"FROM WHAT I HEAR, IT SEEMS LIKE SUICIDE."

"BUT NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE."

"EVEN THOUGH HIS MOTHER DIED."

"AND HE'S THE ONE WHO PUSHED HER TO SUICIDE."

"THE BOY DOESN'T EVEN CRY."

...
SHUT UP.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!

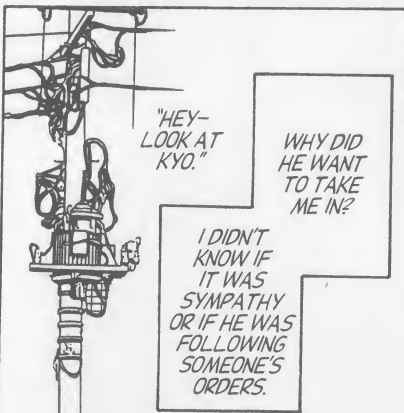
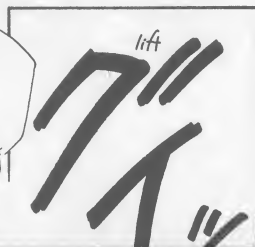
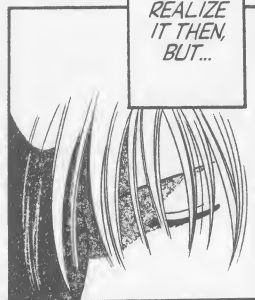
SHUT UP!

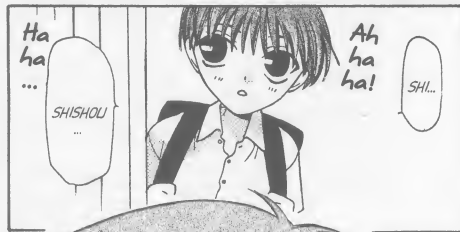


I DON'T WANT US TO BE APART.

HOW CAN I ASK FOR THAT?







WELCOME HOME...

...KYO!

SO MUCH THAT...

SHISHOLI HELPED ME SO MUCH.



...AND STAYED BY MY SIDE.



THAT MAY BE RIGHT.

BUT...



...NONE OF MY STUDENTS WILL CALL ME THAT.



...HE WAS THE FIRST ONE TO SHOW ME THE "OUTSIDE" WORLD.



ON TV THEY WERE CALLING A KARATE INSTRUCTOR "SHISHOLI," SO YOU'RE A SHISHOLI, RIGHT?

PEOPLE
WOULD SAY
THINGS SO
TERRIBLE
YOU'D WANT
TO PUKE.

THINGS
THAT
WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
SAID IF IT
WEREN'T
FOR ME.

SHISHOU
ACCEPTED
IT ALL....

...AND
RAISED ME
IN SPITE
OF IT.

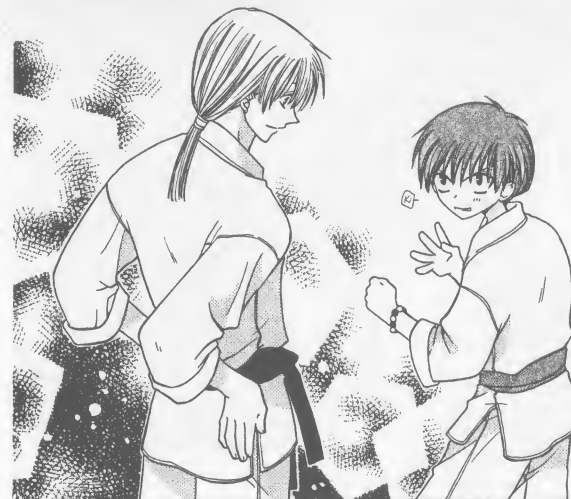
SHISHOU
ISN'T MY
DAD!!

"I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE
WILLINGLY
TOOK IN
THE CAT."
"IS SOME-
THING
WRONG
WITH
KAZUMA-
KUN,
TOO?"

IF I HURT
HIM...

SO WHAT
MORE DO I
WANT?

NO WAY!



...THAT I WISH
SHISHOU WAS
MY REAL
FATHER.

HIS
RAISING ME
MAY HAVE
JUST BEEN
SYMPATHY
AND
KINDNESS
...

OR WOULD
HE BE
SPEECH-
LESS?

WOULD
HE LAUGH
OR LOOK
TROUBLED?

I WONDER
HOW HE'D
REACT IF
I TOLD
HIM THAT.



"I UNDERSTAND
HE'S JUST YOUR
FOSTER FATHER..."

...BUT HOW ON
EARTH DID HE
RAISE YOU?"

"ALL
THEY DID
WAS TEASE
YOU ABOUT
YOUR HAIR
COLOR."

"YOUR
FATHER IS
ON HIS WAY
HERE."

clack

...BUT HE
CERTAINLY
HAD TO
PUT UP
WITH...
...HIS
SHARE OF
SCORN.

"WHY DO YOU
TRY TO SOLVE
THINGS WITH
VIOLENCE?"



Fruits Basket 6
Part 4:

As I'm writing this, FF9 still hasn't come out. Just a little longer. Finally, the most dangerous game... The game that I will put everything aside for, even eating... No, if I get too hungry, I will eat. (So you will eat!) There are things in the world whose power to draw you in is strong. Things that fill you with anticipation are the strongest of all. Like Square-san's games. Y'know? You think, "I'm sleepy... I'm sleepy, but... I have to know what happens next!" Goodness gracious. And GRANDIA 2 is coming out! I'm so happy I could scream. And a Dreamcast version of SAKURA TAISEN is on its way, so I scream even more. Aahh, there aren't enough hours in the day! (laugh)



STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP



HE WENT HOME.

WHA?!

TOHRU-KUN
TOOK HIM
HOME.



SHISHOU
...

OH, GOOD
MORNING!

WHERE'S
SHISHOU?



I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO BE MY
DAD...

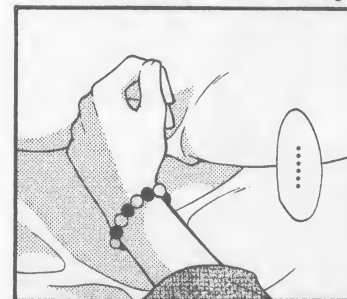
DON'T EVER
TREAT SHISHOU
AND ME LIKE
FATHER AND
SON AGAIN!!

I DON'T
WANT
TO BE
ANYONE'S
BURDEN.

I DON'T
WANT
PEOPLE TO
SAY BAD
THINGS
ANYMORE.

...IF IT'S GOING
TO HURT YOU!

daze





I WILL BE FINE FROM HERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

"YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO PROGRESS."

WHY?

AH...

UM... I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING TO KYO-KUN.

I KNOW IT'S NOT ANY OF MY BUSINESS... BUT...

THAT IS...

HE DIDN'T EVEN GIVE ME A CHANCE...

...TO SAY A WORD OF THANKS!



RUN

RUN

RUN

RUN

SLAM



WHA...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

"I WILL TAKE AWAY YOUR MEANS OF ESCAPE"

"KYO..."

...DISCOVER FOR YOURSELF WHETHER OR NOT YOUR BIRTHRIGHT REALLY MAKES YOU 'WORTHLESS.'"



WHY DID HE GO HOME...

...WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?



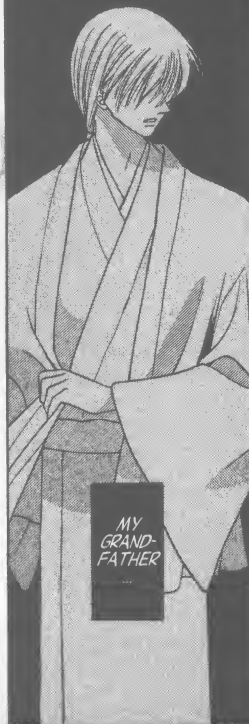
"I SEE..."

...JUST
SMILED AT
ME AND
FORGAVE
ME.

HE WAS
SUCH
A KIND
PERSON.

I SAID
SOME-
THING...

...TERRIBLY
CRUEL.



MY
GRAND-
FATHER



!...

I DON'T
WANT
ANY!"

"IT'S
CURSED!"

"COME
HERE,
KAZUMA.

HAVE
SOME
CANDY."

I ONLY
MET MY
GRANDFATHER
ONCE.



...WAS TO
ATONE.

...I TOOK
KYO IN...

THE
REASON...



I DON'T
KNOW.



AND I...

...WAS ONE
OF THEM.

MY GRAND-
FATHER WAS
POSSESSED
BY THE CAT,
JUST LIKE
KYO IS.

HE WAS
ESTRANGED
FROM HIS
IMMEDIATE
FAMILY,
SLANDERED
BY HIS
RELATIVES.

THEY
TREATED
HIM VERY
BADLY.

BUT
THIS
TIME...

...I IGNORED
HIS WILL
AND TOOK
HIS BEADS.

I FORCED MY
ONE-SIDED
FEELINGS
ONTO HIM.

I TREASURED
HIM...

...WORRIED
ABOUT HIM...

...WANTED HIM
TO BE HAPPIER
THAN ANYONE
ELSE.

I FELT
LIKE...

...I HAD
BECOME HIS
FATHER.

...I CAME TO
LOVE HIM.

EVERY TIME
I SAW HIM
SMILE...

...THAT
LOVE
GREW.

"SHISHOU
ISN'T MY
DAD!"

IT WAS NO
DIFFERENT
FROM US
BACK THEN.

AND IT...

I ACTED
EXACTLY
THE SAME
WAY.

...FROM
A SELFISH
DESIRE TO
EASE MY OWN
GUILT...

AND SO I
TOOK HIM IN
TO ATONE
FOR WHAT
I'D DONE.
IT MAY
HAVE
STARTED
...

HOWEVER,
SPENDING
TIME WITH
HIM...

...BEFORE
I KNEW
IT...

...LIVING
WITH
HIM...

...HOW-
EVER...

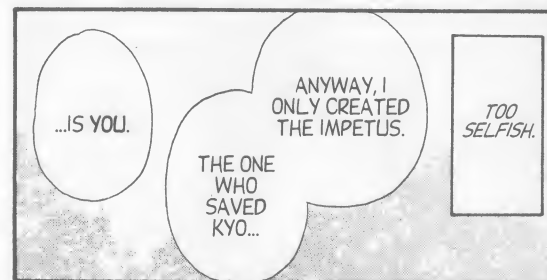
WHEN
KYO WAS
BORN...

MY
GRAND-
FATHER
DIED, AND
I GREW
UP.

...I SAW FIRST-
HAND THE HARSH
REALITY HE HAD
TO FACE BECAUSE
OF WHAT HE WAS
BORN INTO. AND IT
HIT ME.

HOW
FOOLISH
IT WAS...

...AND
HOW
CRUEL.



WHY--?!

.....
!

SHISHOU!!

WHY DID YOU LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?!

HOW COULD YOU JUST...

KY...

WHY?!

...RUN AWAY LIKE THAT?!

KYO-KU--

!



WANTING TO GO BACK TO THE DOJO LIKE THAT...

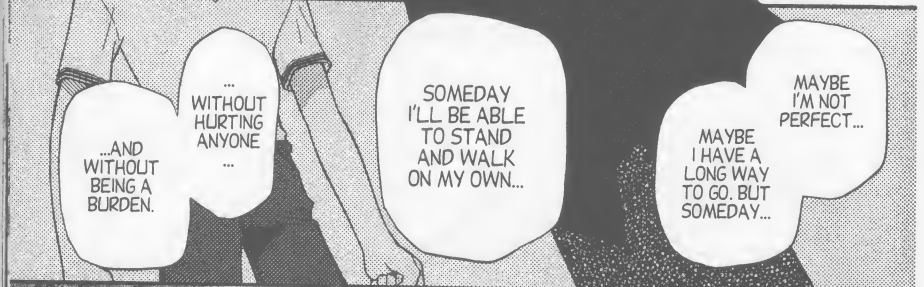
YOU SACRIFICED SO MUCH TO RAISE ME, AND I JUST ACTED LIKE A SPOILED KID.

USING YOU AS AN EXCUSE TO RUN AWAY... I'M SORRY.

BUT--!

ALL I EVER DO IS CAUSE YOU TROUBLE.

I'M SORRY...



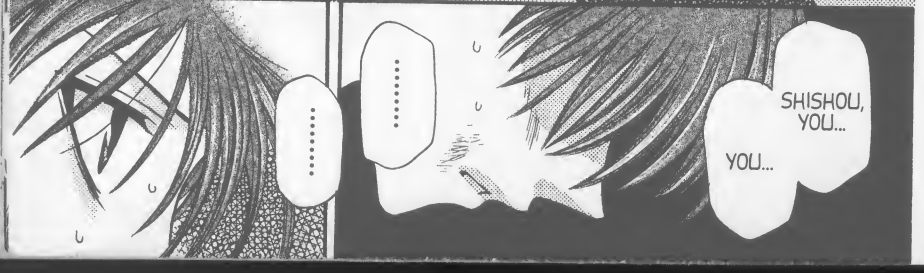
...AND WITHOUT BEING A BURDEN.

... WITHOUT HURTING ANYONE ...

SOMEDAY I'LL BE ABLE TO STAND AND WALK ON MY OWN...

MAYBE I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT SOMEDAY...

MAYBE I'M NOT PERFECT...

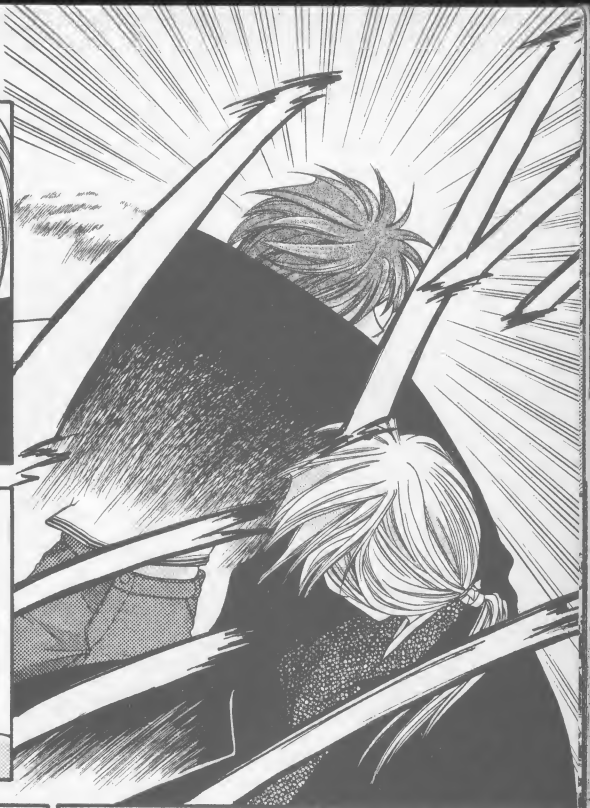


SHISHOU, YOU...

YOU...



KYO...



...SICK OF ME?

ARE YOU...

OR ARE YOU...

DID YOU THINK I'D GET MAD OR SOMETHING?!



WHAT WAS IT?

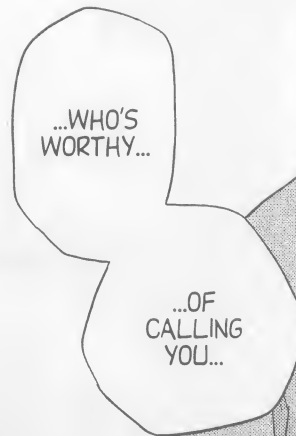


...I'LL BE
THE KIND
OF GUY...

WHO CAN
HOLD HIS
HEAD HIGH.



.....
!



...WHO'S
WORTHY...

...OF
CALLING
YOU...



SOMEDAY
...



IT
MUST
BE...



WE TOOK THE
LONG WAY,
BUT NOW...

...I THINK WE
JUST MIGHT
BE ABLE...

...TO
CONNECT.



...WE KEPT
MISSING
EACH
OTHER.



ALL THIS
TIME...



TOHRU!

AH!

EH?!



MY SHISHOU IS
THE STRONGEST!

WERE YOU
WATCHING?

EH? AH,
YES!!

SEE?!

DIDN'T
I TELL
YOU?!



KYO.

TH...

...MY
TROUBLE-
SOME...

...SON.

...THEN
PERHAPS
YOU'VE
GOTTEN
WEAKER?

IF YOU
WERE NOT
ABLE TO
GUARD
AGAINST
THAT...

...THAT'S NO
REASON TO
THROW ME!

Chapter 34



IT MUST BE...

...BECAUSE OF
THIS PERSON.



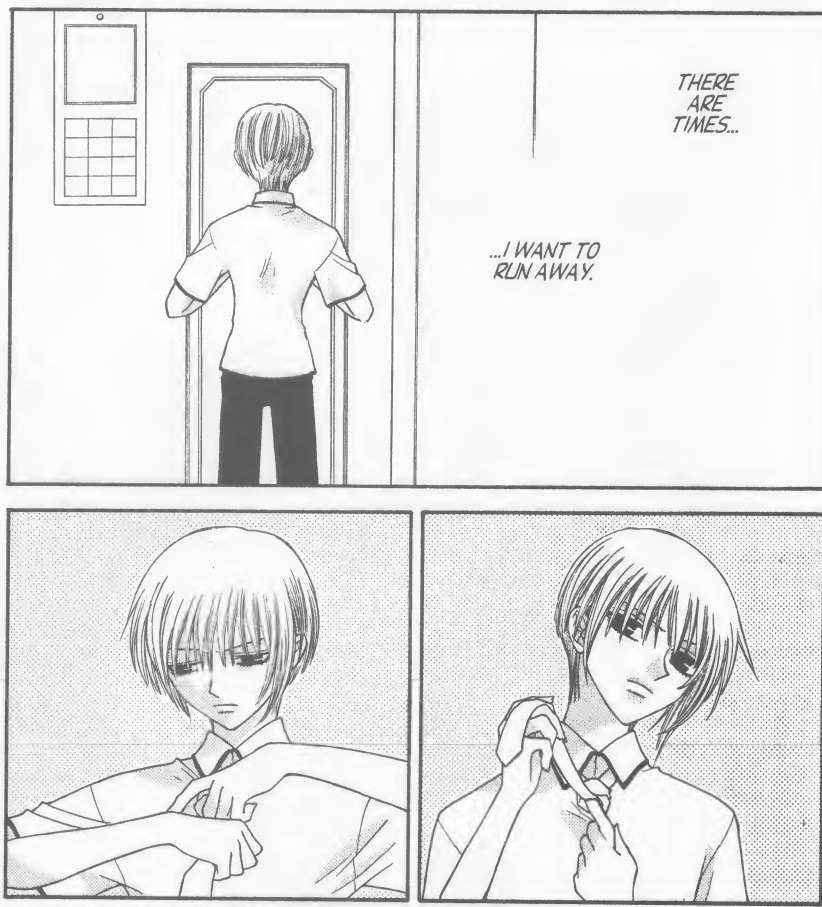
ISN'T HE
THE BEST?

LRR...

BECAUSE
YOU, TOHRU-
SAN...

...WERE
HERE FOR
HIM.

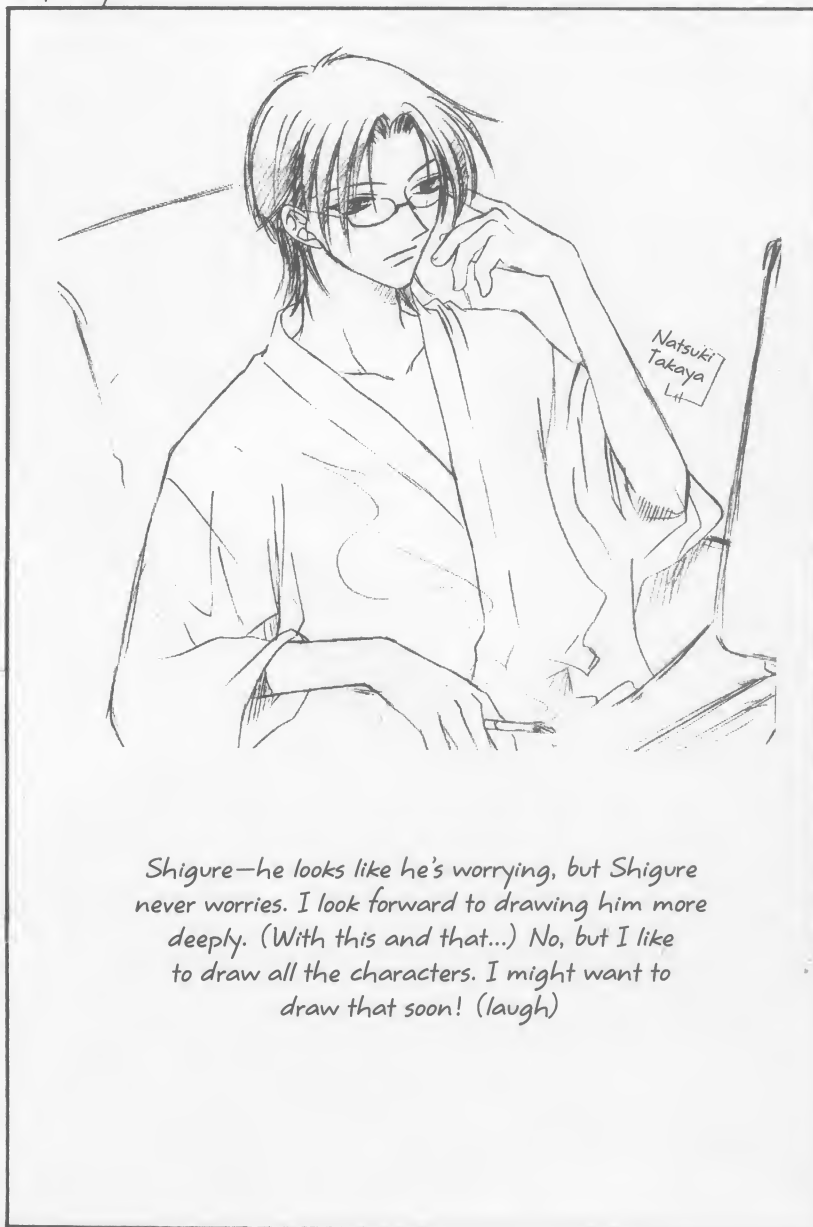




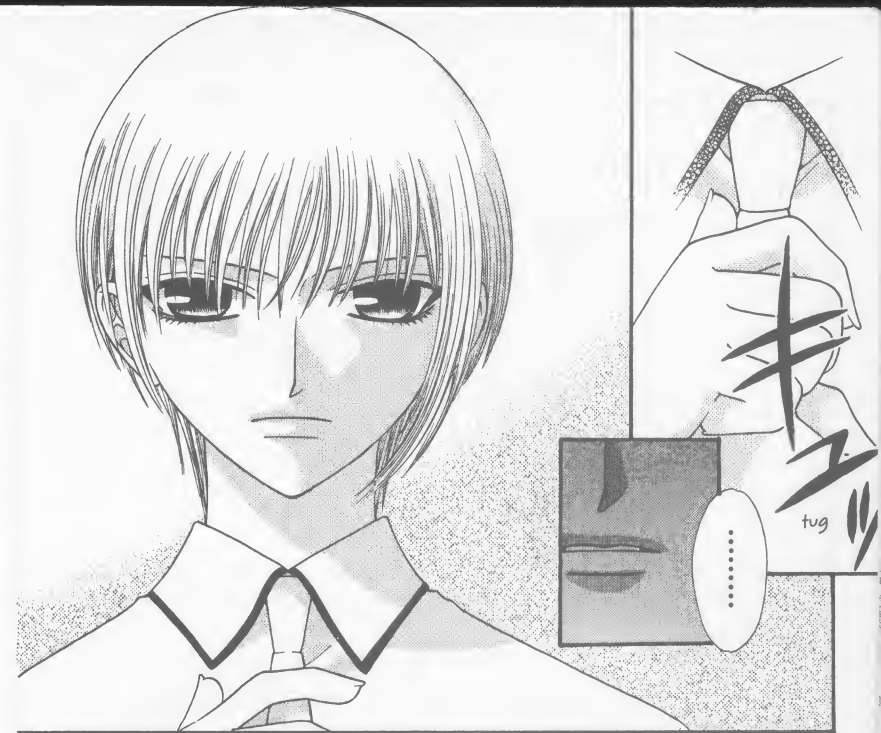
ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 3

Aya is worrying about his brother in his own special way (laugh). Holding a crab claw... By the way, the colors are all secretly unified. There's no really deep meaning in it.

People say...



Shigure—he looks like he's worrying, but Shigure never worries. I look forward to drawing him more deeply. (With this and that...) No, but I like to draw all the characters. I might want to draw that soon! (laugh)



Fruits Basket 6
Part 5:

Ahh, I can't move my hand anymore... I have to go to the doctor. "VALKYRIE PROFILE is a wonderful game, isn't it?" I thought. No, oh how do I explain it, the system and everything... come to think of it, I don't really have anything to say about it. When Lucian dropped a broken crystal (it ended up broken), I got chills. That may not have anything to do with it, though. (laugh) Now that I think of it, I keep all the games I've beaten. All those jewel cases and cartridges, you know? They're taking up so much space it's not even funny! I don't know what to do with them. I just can't throw them away. It's a conundrum.







IT'S HARD
TO TELL.

IT'S HARD
TO TELL,
BUT...

...YUKI-KUN
SEEMS
DEPRESSED
SOMEHOW.



HONDA-
SAN.



...THERE'S
YUKI-
KUN.



Ha
ha
ha



KAGURA-
SAN.

SHE WAS
THERE WHEN
I WENT TO
BED...

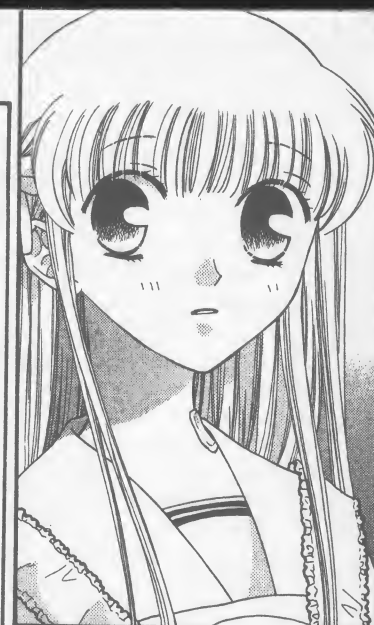
...BUT SHE WAS
ALREADY GONE
WHEN I WOKE UP
AND I HAVEN'T
SEEN HER SINCE.

...THAT I
WAS ABLE
TO LEARN
ABOUT
KYO-KUN'S
FEELINGS...

...AND HIS
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
SHISHOU-
SAN.

BUT...

...THERE ARE
STILL SOME
THINGS
ABOUT
THAT NIGHT
THAT LEFT
ME ANXIOUS.



HONDA-
SAN, HAVE
YOU STARTED
THINKING ABOUT
FINALS YET?

EH...

EH?!

UH...
WELL,
UM...

not yet.

I'M VERY
HAPPY...

THAT
NIGHT

...MAYBE
YUKI-KUN
SAW...

HE SEEMS
DEPRESSED
SOMEHOW.

AH...!

...I REALIZED...

...MAY...
MAYBE
YUKI-KUN...

AH.

NO...

...KYO'S
TRUE
FORM.

...SAW IT,
TOO.

WHEN I
THOUGHT
THAT...

HE WAS
ANNOYING, SO
I LEFT HIM IN
CLASS.

Oh...

Momiji-
kun, have
some
candy!

happy happy joy

Send
for you,
Momiji!

Make
sure to
thank
her!

HELLO,
HATSUHARU-
SAN!

YOU'RE
NOT WITH
MOMIJI-KUN
TODAY?

HEY.

IS...YUKI
AROUND?

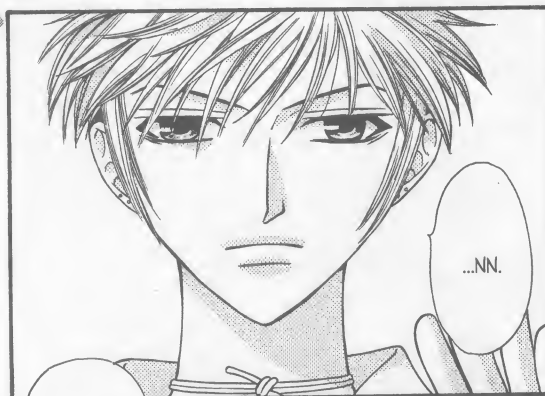
AH... NO, IT
SEEMS HE
WENT SOME-
WHERE.

IF YOU
WANT, I
COULD
GIVE HIM A
MESSAGE.

IT'S NOT
REALLY A
MESSAGE...

WHEN I
SAW HIM
EARLIER,
HE LOOKED
TROUBLED.

IT'S HARD
TO TELL,
BUT...



KAGURA,
ARE YOU
LEAVING?

EVERYONE'S
STILL
ASLEEP.

DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN TO
KAGURA-
NEE?

-nee: honorific for "big sister."

YEAH... BUT
TODAY I'M
KIND OF...

WILL YOU
JUST TELL
KYO-KUN...
I'LL SEE HIM
LATER? OKAY,
YUN-CHAN?

YOU'RE
WEIRD,
YUN-CHAN.

KAGURA
...

NN?

KAGURA IS...
STRONG.

EEH?
WHAT IS
IT?

IT...IT'S
NOTHING.

YOU
SEEM...

...PRETTY
DOWN.

...HAPPEN?

DID
SOME-
THING...

HOW
SHOULD
I KNOW? I
HARDLY
EVER SEE
HER.

BUT,
I THINK
SHE'S
DOING ALL
RIGHT...

*Our houses are
far apart.*

YOU'RE
"FIGHTING
IT"?

I'M TRYING
SO HARD TO
FIGHT IT.

DON'T SAY
THINGS LIKE
THAT.

HARU...
HOW'S
KAGURA
DOING?

WHETHER
YOU EXPRESS
YOUR
FEELINGS
OR NOT...

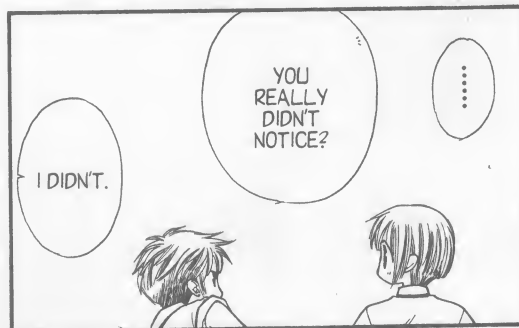
...IS
YOUR
CHOICE,
YUKI.



...SHE'S
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU, YOU
KNOW?

HONDA-
SAN.

BUT YOU
REALLY
SHOULDN'T
LEAVE HER
WORRYING
LIKE THAT.



I DIDN'T.

YOU
REALLY
DIDN'T
NOTICE?

...

IT'S THE
LEAST YOU
COULD DO.

AND IT'S
NOT JUST
HONDA-
SAN...

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
WORRYING
SO MUCH
ABOUT OTHER
PEOPLE.



...WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.



I'M...

...

FOR NOW,
I'LL KEEP A
LID ON IT.

MAYBE
SOMEDAY
...

...WHEN
I'M A
BETTER
PERSON...

BUT...

IF I DON'T,
THE MUDDY
FEELINGS
WILL OVER-
FLOW.

HATRED,
DISGUST...

I'LL BE
SWALLOWED
UP BY
THOSE
DIRTY
FEELINGS
AGAIN.

I DON'T
WANT THAT
ANYMORE.

SOME-
THING DID
HAPPEN...

...BUT...

...SHE
WON'T
SAY.

FOR NOW,
I'LL KEEP A
LID ON IT...A
TIGHT LID.

THAT FORM,
THE OTHER
THINGS,
ALL OF IT...
EVERYTHING.



...THAT
I'M NOT
READY TO
TELL YOU...

THERE'S
STILL A
LOT...

I'M SORRY.

EH?!

OH NO,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
DO THAT!
I JUST...

?!!

I'M STILL...
SO PATHETIC.

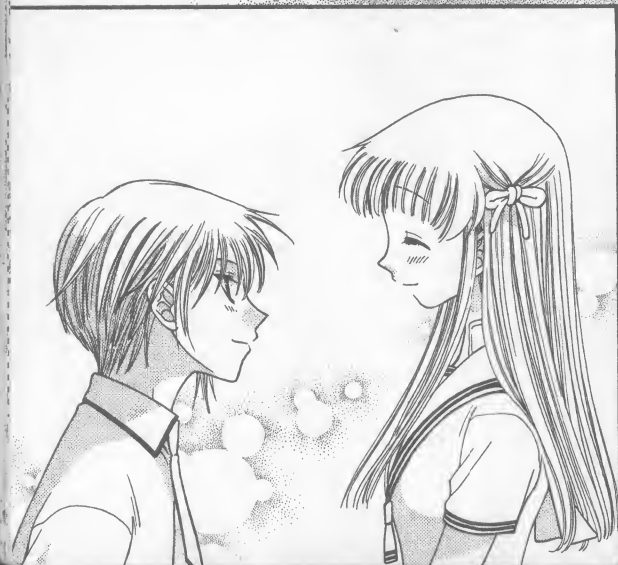
...HONDA-
SAN.

...BY
LITTLE.

BUT...

...I WILL.
LITTLE...

I'LL GAIN
THE COURAGE...



OKAY.

...TO
TELL
YOU!



...THAT I TOLD KISA
I WOULD BECOME.

...WITHOUT
BEING
SWALLOWED
UP.

BUT I STILL
HAVE A LONG
WAY TO GO.

HONDA-
SAN...



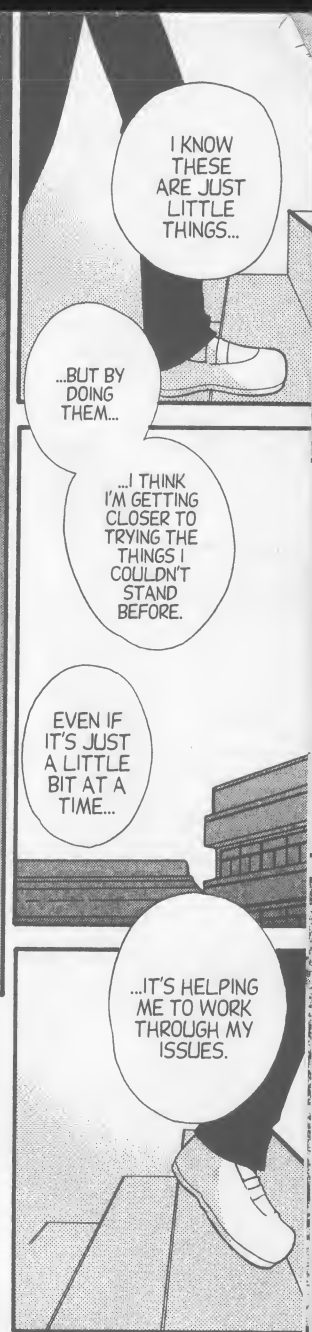
I'VE
WORRIED
YOU.



!

MAYBE I'LL BE
ABLE TO OPEN
THE LID I'VE
CLOSED SO
TIGHTLY...

MAYBE SOMEDAY
I CAN BECOME
THAT PERSON...



I KNOW
THESE
ARE JUST
LITTLE
THINGS...

...BUT BY
DOING
THEM...

...I THINK
I'M GETTING
CLOSER TO
TRYING THE
THINGS I
COULDN'T
STAND
BEFORE.

EVEN IF
IT'S JUST
A LITTLE
BIT AT A
TIME...

...IT'S HELPING
ME TO WORK
THROUGH MY
ISSUES.



...I'LL
KIDNAP
YOU.

YOU'D
BETTER
WATCH
OUT.

...
KIDDING!

JUST...

?!?



Ah!
YOU MEAN YOU
THINK YOU
COULD LIKE
SUMMER?!

...I THINK I'LL
SPEND A
LOT OF TIME
OUTSIDE.

UH-HUH. WHEN
I THOUGHT
ABOUT IT, I
REALIZED
THAT I MIGHT
REALLY
ENJOY IT.

FIRE-
WORKS, AND
FESTIVALS,
AND THE
OCEAN...

IT SEEMS
LIKE I COULD
BUILD A
LOT OF NEW
MEMORIES...

AND THIS
SUMMER...

EH?!

YOU...
DON'T
WANT
TO?

N-NO, OF
COURSE
I WANT
TO...!

IF YOU
DON'T
COME
ALONG
WILL-
INGLY...

...WITH YOU,
HONDA-SAN.

!

YUKI-KUN
AND KYO-
KUN...

...ARE
BECOMING
MORE AND
MORE
WONDERFUL.

EVERYTHING
ABOUT THEM,
INSIDE AND
OUT...



OF
COURSE
YOU'RE
NOT,
YUKI-KUN.

"PATHETIC?"

...IS SO
WONDERFUL
THAT I'M
AFRAID...

...MY HEART
WILL SOON
GIVE OUT.

WHY IS HARU
COMING HOME
WITH US?



HONDA-
SAN?!

BANG



AH
HA HA
HA!

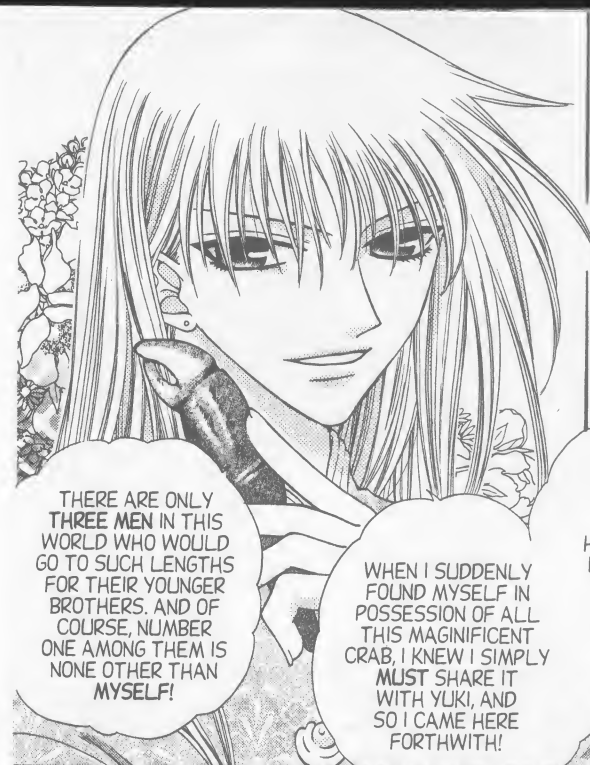
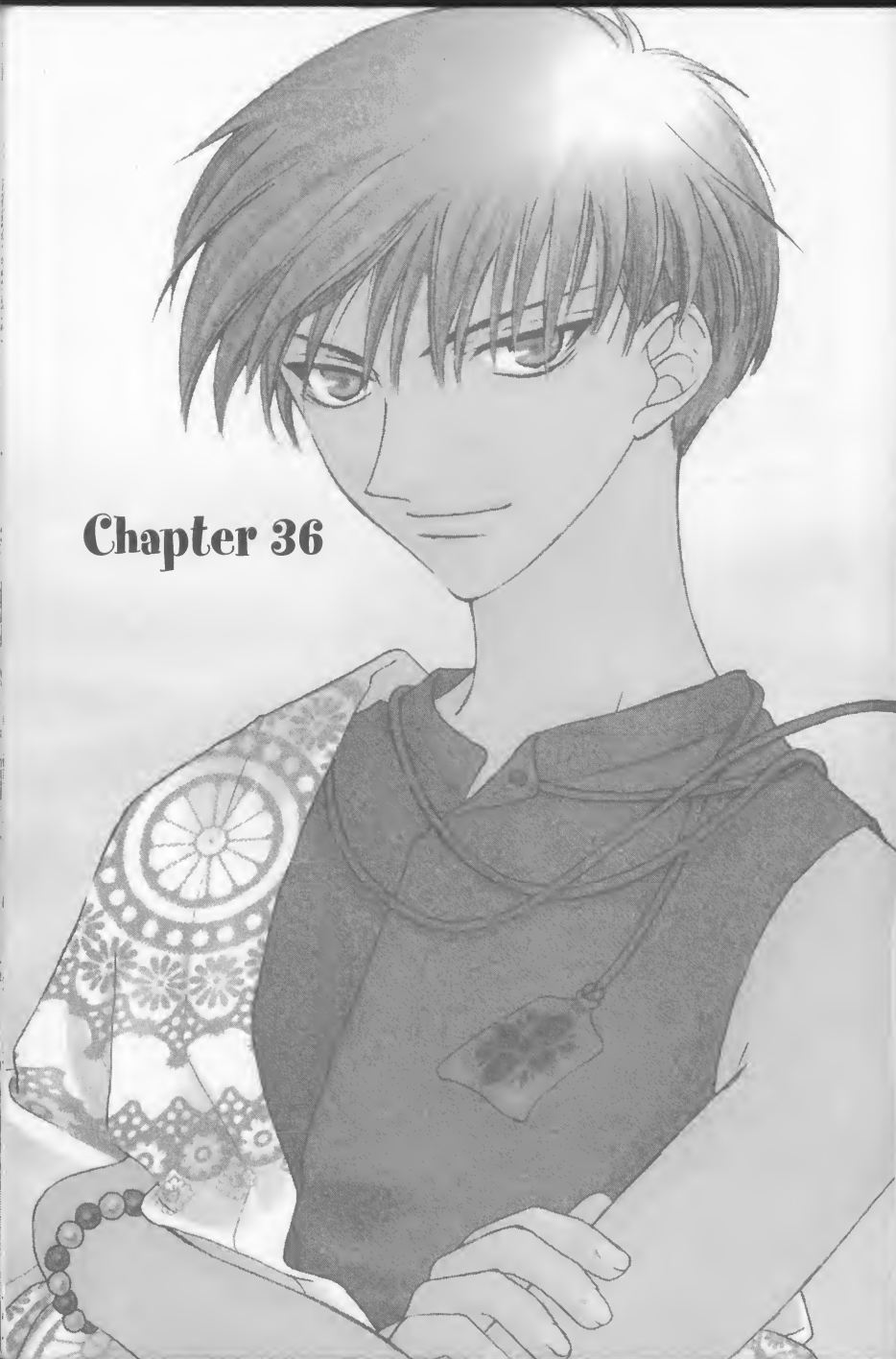
HA HA!

...HA!





Chapter 36



BUT WE'RE
LEARNING
TO COPE...

ALL OF US.

THERE ARE ONLY
THREE MEN IN THIS
WORLD WHO WOULD
GO TO SUCH LENGTHS
FOR THEIR YOUNGER
BROTHERS. AND OF
COURSE, NUMBER
ONE AMONG THEM IS
NONE OTHER THAN
MYSELF!

WHEN I SUDDENLY
FOUND MYSELF IN
POSSESSION OF ALL
THIS MAGNIFICENT
CRAB, I KNEW I SIMPLY
MUST SHARE IT
WITH YUKI, AND
SO I CAME HERE
FORTHWITH!

WHAT DO I
HAVE TO HIDE?
EAT AS MUCH
CRAB AS YOU
LIKE!



HA!
HA!
*This crab miso
is delicious!*

HA!
HA!
HA!

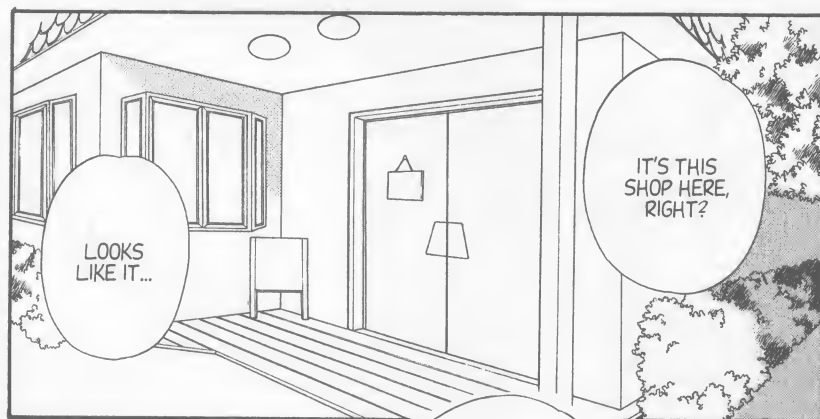
OH
MY!
WHAT
COULD BE THE
MATTER, YUKI?
CLEARLY YOU
ARE GAZING
OFF INTO THE
DISTANCE.

GOOD
LUCK,
YUKI.

Fight.

OF COURSE,
OF COURSE! I
UNDERSTAND!

YOUR EYES
ARE SPINNING
BECAUSE OF THE
MATCHLESS
LOVE OF YOUR
OLDER BROTHER!



ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH 4

Ever since I started drawing this manga, I thought, "I want to draw a color picture of Kyo smiling!" And so, his first smile. That doesn't mean he'll always be smiling, though. This boy really is hopeless. (laugh)

I feel so grateful!



Harada-sama, Araki-sama, Kawai-sama, Mom, Dad, and everyone who reads this and supports me, I couldn't have done it without you!

Hatori, you're up next!
This has been Natsuki Takaya



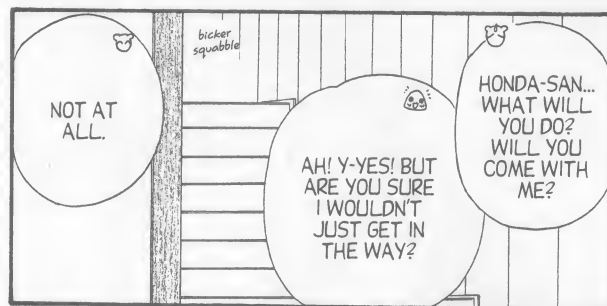
*Sign: Trust comes first; Ayame; Value from the heart



*Nii-san: older brother

Fruits Basket 6
Part 6:

In the last volume, I talked about what kind of snacks I liked at the time, but since then I've moved from "fugashi" to "egg booro" and now it's Choco-Balls (with caramel!). What toy did it come with...? Since I was a kid, it made me wonder. I was one of those kids who thinks, "I wanna hurry and grow up!" There were a lot of reasons, and one of them was, "So I'll be able to eat as many 'cucumber shrimp sen' as I want!" In hindsight, that's a pretty petty reason to want to grow up (laugh). But now that I can buy things with money I earned myself, that dream has come true. It was a very happy revelation.



↑ He knew he had a shop, but he had no idea what it sold.





*"Mine" is a woman's name. It's pronounced "Me-nay."





EVERYONE HAS ONE, TWO, OR THREE SECRET GARDENS THAT THEY CAN'T SHARE WITH ANYONE.

THAT DRESS...

...IS FOR A MAN?

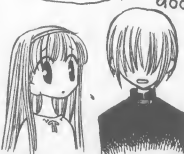


doom
doom

S...

SO...
WHAT
IS THIS...
SHOP?

doom
doom
doom



slump

ELEMENTARY,
MY DEAR
BROTHER!

IT'S A SHOP FOR
THOSE WHO WANT
THEIR DREAMS
FASHIONED INTO
THE FINEST
HANDMADE
DRESSINGS...

...AND FOR THOSE
WHOSE FASHION
DREAMS INVOLVE
DRESSING AS
HANDMAIDS.

NO
DESIGN IS
AN ENEMY
TO ME.

I, AS OWNER
OF THIS
ESTABLISHMENT,
WILL TAILOR
ANY CLOTHES
THAT ARE
ORDERED.



Y u k i i i i !

SOMETHING'S
COMING...

SOMETHING...

SOMETHING
STRANGE!!



BUT OF COURSE!
BECAUSE THE
ONE WHO WANTS
IT IS A MAN.

HA! =
HA!
HA!
MY
APOLOGIES.
WE WERE
HEMMING A
WEDDING DRESS
THAT SOMEONE
HAD ORDERED.

SHOULD
YOU BE
MEASURING
IT ON A
MAN?

MAIDS
AND NURSES,
WAITRESSES
AND STEWARD-
ESSES AND
SECRETARIES!

SAILOR SUITS
AND CAT EARS,
RABBIT EARS...
THERE'S TOO
MANY TO LIST!

IN THESE
SIMPLE FASHIONS,
MEN CHASE THEIR
DREAMS AND BRING
THEIR ROMANTIC
FANTASIES TO LIFE!
THERE'S NO CRIME
IN PURSUING YOUR
DREAMS TO ESCAPE
THE HARSH REALITY
OF LIFE.

**MEN'S
ROMANCE!**

IT'S NO
DIFFERENT
FROM THE
ROMANTIC URGE
TO PEEK INTO A
WOMAN'S BATH!!

**THAT'S
ILLEGAL!!**



THESE ARE BUT
A SAMPLING OF
MY COMPLETED
WORKS!

WHY
ARE THEY
ALL THOSE
KIND OF
CLOTHES?

*Out
with it.*

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
YUKI?

GO AHEAD.
YOU MAY
PRAISE ME AS
WELL.

SO THIS IS
WHAT HATSU-
HARU-SAN WAS
TALKING ABOUT!

AMAZING...!
IT'S AMAZING,
AYAME-SAN!

*But of
course!*

**I AM
AMAZING!!**

But of course!

IT MAY
BE DIFFICULT FOR
YOU TO UNDERSTAND
NOW, YUKI, BUT
THESE ARE ALL
FORMS OF...

THEY'RE...
POPULAR
...?

BECAUSE
THEY'RE VERY
POPULAR!

*The maid is the
most popular.*



THIS HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR A WHILE, BUT--

YOU THERE!

EH?!
Y-YES! PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I'M TOHRU HONDA...

TOHRU-CHAN!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CLOTHES LIKE THESE?!

Isn't it cute!?!
♪ ♪

I'M WEARING THIS BECAUSE I LIKE IT!

It's adorable!



WHEN MINE SEES A CUTE GIRL, SHE HAS A TENDENCY OF WANTING TO MAKE HER CHANGE CLOTHES.

Shall we try something on?
♡



EH?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WEAR THEM? WOULDN'T YOU? YOU WOULD, RIGHT!?!
Mmm...

IT SEEMS IT HAS BEGUN.

?



Mm-hmm.
HE'S EXACTLY LIKE YOU, BOSS! AT LEAST, ON THE OUTSIDE.

HA! HA! HA! HA!

YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOUR LITTLE BROTHER WAS COMING!

I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU SUDDENLY DECIDED TO CLOSE SHOP TODAY.

YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN.

creak...



Ah...
PLEASED TO MEET ...

GASP

UM... WOULD THAT OUTFIT HAPPEN TO BE...

...THIS STORE'S UNIFORM?

EH? OH, NO.



I ALSO HELP MAKE THE CLOTHES!

I'M MINE KURAMAE. I WORK FOR YOUR BROTHER!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, OTOUTO-KUN!

otouto-kun: little brother



THEY PROBABLY DON'T NEED OUR HELP, SO AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE...



...WILL YOU COOPERATE?

YES!



NOW THE TWO BROTHERS CAN SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME ALONE.

!!



...IS "NOTHING-NESS."

BECAUSE WHAT BOSS IS MOST AFRAID OF...

I JUST HOPE THEY CAN TALK WITHOUT FIGHTING.

OH!

A FIGHT WOULD BE GOOD!!

IT'S PROOF THAT THEY'RE ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGING EACH OTHER!



I SAID HOLD ON!!

OTOITO-KUN!! WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TOHRU-CHAN TO WEAR?! DEFINITELY SOMETHING PROPER...

PL-

PLEASE, HOLD ON! KURAMAE-SAN!



THAT ONE, BOSS?!

WHAT IS "THAT ONE"?!

THAT ONE IS THE MOST CHARMING, ISN'T IT?!

MINE. I THINK IN THIS CASE, THAT ONE WOULD BE THE BEST.



THERE'S NO HELPING HER NOW, YUKI. SHE'S IN MINE'S CLUTCHES!

NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH. I'M SURE MINE WILL GO EASY ON HER.

QUICKLY, TOHRU-CHAN!!

LET US BEGIN YOUR TRANSFORMATION INTO THAT!!

S L A M

click☆



THAT'S
NOT AT ALL
WHY.

I REALLY
CANNOT HELP BUT
THINK THAT IT
IS BECAUSE YOU
HAVE BEEN
INFLUENCED BY
ME, YOUR OLDER
BROTHER!

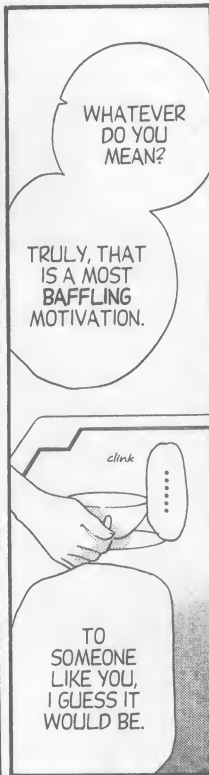
I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU'VE
DECIDED TO
BECOME
STUDENT
BODY
PRESIDENT,
YUKI?

*I heard
from
Gure-san.*



JUST LIKE
HOW, TO ME,
THIS SHOP IS
BAFFLING.

OUR WAYS
OF THINKING
ARE TOO
DIFFERENT.



WHATEVER
DO YOU
MEAN?

TRULY, THAT
IS A MOST
BAFFLING
MOTIVATION.

TO
SOMEONE
LIKE YOU,
I GUESS IT
WOULD BE.



YOUNGER
BROTHERS
ALWAYS
ASPIRE TO
BE LIKE
THEIR OLDER
BROTHERS...

I SAID
THAT'S
NOT IT!!

I DID IT
BECAUSE
I DIDN'T
WANT TO!!



IT WOULD
BE A PROBLEM
IF BLOOD
GOT ON THE
MERCHANDISE.

AH
HA
HA...

BUT I
WOULD LIKE
FOR THEM
TO AVOID
ACTUALLY
SPILLING
BLOOD.

SHE'S RIGHT.
IF PEOPLE
REALLY
ACKNOWLEDGE
EACH OTHER...

...SOMETIMES
THEY'LL END
UP FIGHTING.



YOU'RE
REALLY GOING
TO CHANGE MY
CLOTHES?!

Of
course!!

PUTTING
THAT
ASIDE...

Let's change
your clothes,
shall we...?



NOW!



I COULDN'T
HELP IT.

I'M JUST
OVERJOYED
THAT YOU
CAME.

SEE,
YOU WERE
ALWAYS SO
ANGRY WITH
ME...

...AND,
AFTER
HOW I
TREATED
YOU...

...I
DESERVED
IT.

IT'S NOT
AS IF I'VE
FORGOTTEN.



...
TREMBLING
HANDS.

I WAS
CRUEL...

...INSENSITIVE
TO YOUR PAIN.

...YOU
REACHED
OUT TO
ME...

...WITH
THOSE...

THE FIRST AND
ONLY TIME
YOU CAME TO
ME FOR HELP...



DON'T BE SO
POSITIVE
ABOUT IT!!

BUT YOU
MUSTN'T LOSE
HEART! A JOURNEY
OF A THOUSAND
MILES BEGINS WITH
A SINGLE STEP!
DON'T SPARE ANY
EFFORT!

YOU PUT
FORTH A LITTLE
EFFORT TOO,
NII-SAN!!

FORGIVE ME!
I MAY NOT
LOOK IT, BUT
I REALLY AM
TRYING.



MM!!

THERE
IS SOME
TRUTH IN
THAT!

MAYBE, IN
THE END...
WE JUST
DON'T SEE
EYE TO EYE



FORGIVE
ME.



WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO...?
YOU...



.....
!!



WHEN I
REALIZED
THIS, I WAS
AFRAID IT
WAS TOO
LATE.

BUT
TODAY,
YUKI...

...LOOKED
AT ME.

HE LISTENED
TO WHAT
I SAID, AND
GOT ANGRY.

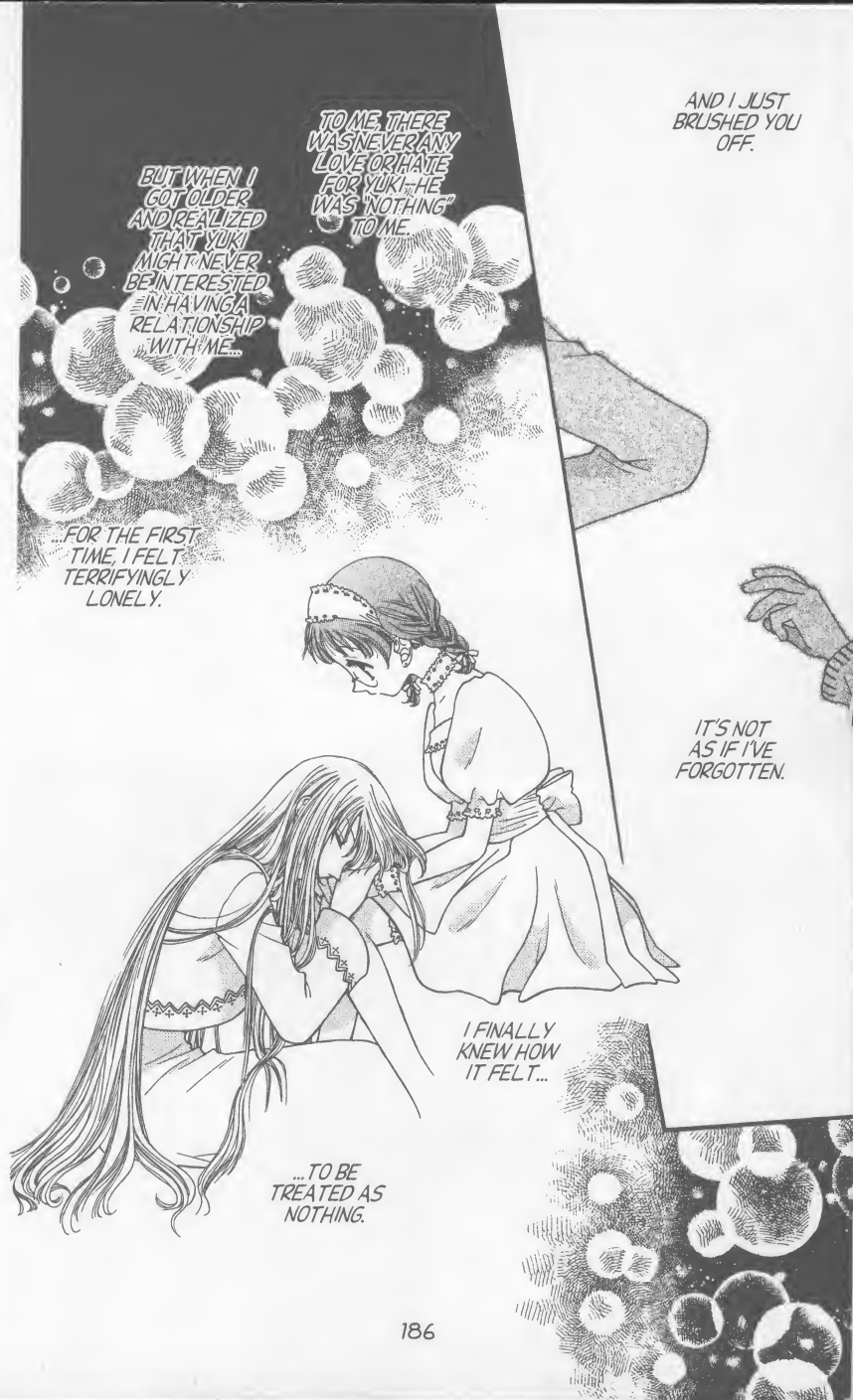
EVEN
NOW,
YOU'RE
SITTING
THERE...

...AND
TRYING...

...TO
UNDERSTAND
ME.

.....
EVEN IF
WE DON'T
SEE EYE
TO EYE...

...EVEN IF WE
CLASH WITH
EACH OTHER,
WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
THAT?



AND I JUST
BRUSHED YOU
OFF.

TO ME, THERE
WAS NEVER ANY
LOVE OR HATE
FOR YUKI—HE
WAS "NOTHING"
TO ME.

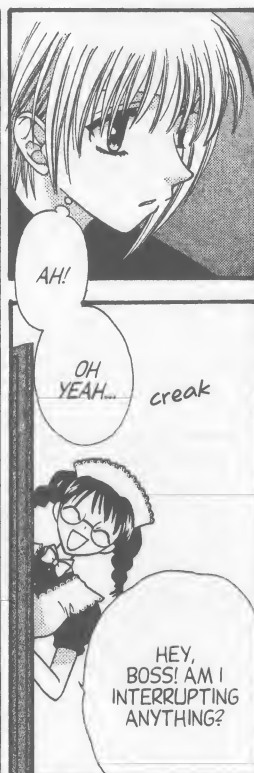
BUT WHEN I
GOT OLDER
AND REALIZED
THAT YUKI
MIGHT NEVER
BE INTERESTED
IN HAVING A
RELATIONSHIP
WITH ME...

...FOR THE FIRST
TIME, I FELT
TERRIFYINGLY
LONELY.

IT'S NOT
AS IF I'VE
FORGOTTEN.

I FINALLY
KNEW HOW
IT FELT...

...TO BE
TREATED AS
NOTHING.



DON'T!!

I WILL GIVE
HER A KISS TO
EXPRESS MY
DELIGHT!

O-
ohhh!

I'M HONORED!

I PRAISE
YOUR FINE
CRAFTSMAN-
SHIP.

TOHRU-
KUN HAS A
WONDERFUL
AIR OF
CUTENESS.

WELL?

NN? I
WONDER.

I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW.

WERE YOU
ABLE TO WORK
THINGS OUT
A LITTLE
WITH YOUR
BROTHER?



Silly!

HE HIT
ME!

ANY
GENTLE-
MAN
WOULD
HAVE HIT
YOU, I'M
SURE.

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA!

HA!



C'EST
MAGNIFIQUE!!

WH...

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

HA!

HA! HA!

HA!

TOHRU-KUN
REALLY DOES
BECOME THE
SWEET, PURE
IMAGE OF A GIRL
HOLDING A WHITE
LACE PARASOL,
LEADING A
WHITE DOG.

MM-HM. DRINK-
ING ENGLISH TEA,
READING POETRY BY
A WHITE WINDOW
WITH WHITE LACE
CURTAINS!



She has no idea how to react



IN THAT
CASE...

WHAT IS
THIS? AND
WHEN A GIRL IS
DRESSED UP SO
CHARMINGLY,
TOO, HOW
DISAPPOINTING.

HUH?!

UH...

COME
ON, YUKI!
GIVE HER
SOME
PRAISE!



I...I SEE.

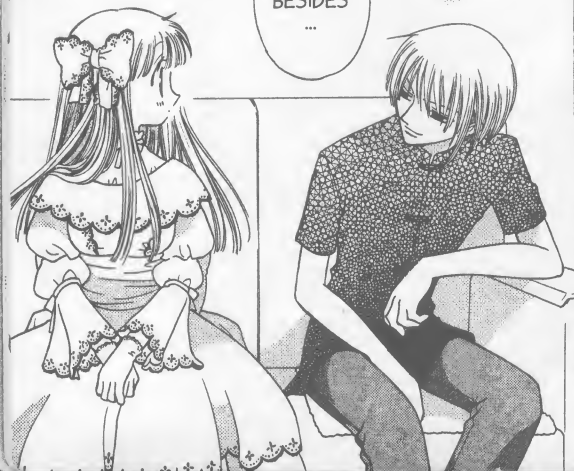
HE'S LIKE AN
UNSTOPPABLE
FORCE OF NATURE.
IT'S USELESS TO
FIGHT IT. WHEN I
TRY, I JUST GET
EXHAUSTED.



...IF I HADN'T,
I WOULDN'T
HAVE GOT
TO SEE YOU
LOOKING SO
CUTE.

....

BESIDES
...



SOMEHOW...
SAYING THAT
MAKES ME
SAD...

BUT...

...IN SPIKE
OF THAT...



...I'M GLAD
I CAME.



IN
THE END,
MAYBE I
WAS THE
ONLY ONE
...

...WHO FELT
HAPPY
ABOUT IT,
ONCE AGAIN.



...ALMOST
EVERYTHING
MY BROTHER
SAYS AND DOES
IS COMPLETE
NONSENSE.

EH?

THERE'S NO
AVOIDING
IT...

HONDA-
SAN...

I WAS ABLE TO
UNDER-
STAND
ONE THING
ABOUT MY
BROTHER.



ROMANCE.

YOU SEE?

THIS IS GOOD!
I UNDERSTAND.
OF COURSE I
UNDERSTAND!
THIS WONDERFUL
DAY SHALL BE
KNOWN AS--

The Day
of Yuki's
Romantic
Fantasy!

A MAN IS A
BEING WHOSE
HEART IS SWAYED BY
A SINGLE COSTUME,
AFTER ALL.

THE FEELING
THAT HAS NOW
SPROUTED IN YOUR
HEART IS WHAT
IS CALLED A
MAN'S ROMANTIC
FANTASY!

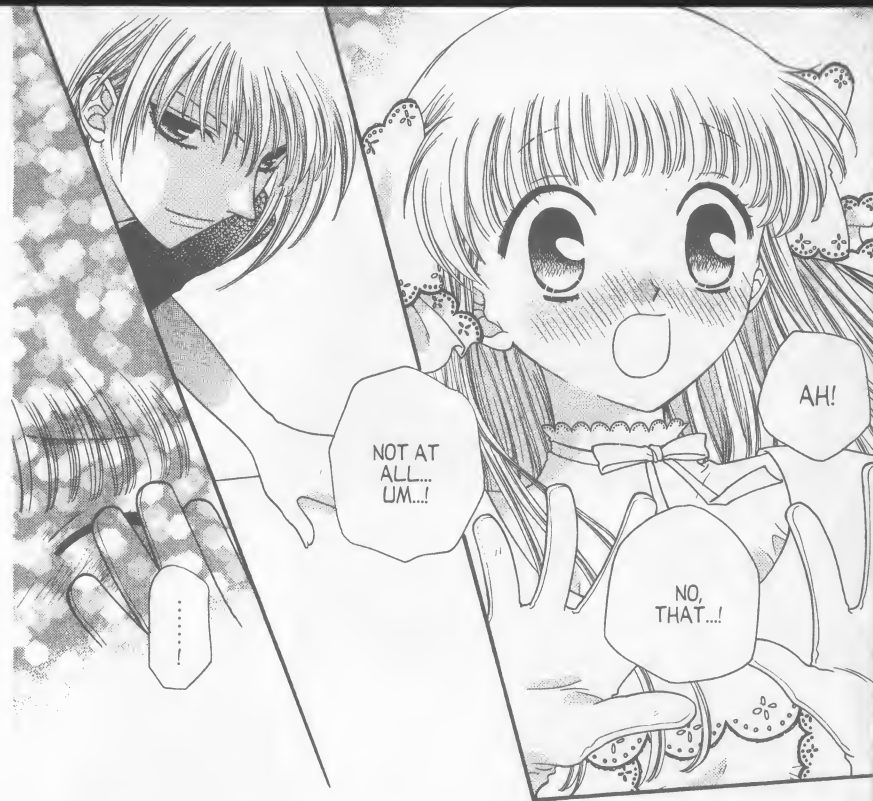
HUH
...?

WHA
...?



THEY'RE
FIGHTING
AFTER ALL.

CUT.
IT.
OUT
!!



NOT AT
ALL...
UM...!

AH!

NO,
THAT...!



DON'T
HIDE IT...

Next time in...

Fruits Basket



7

Natsuki Takaya

New kid on the block...

Tohru and company have been having a lot more fun ever since Kisa came to visit. Now it's time for Tohru to meet another member of the Zodiac--the skillfully sarcastic grade-school student, Hiro! One way or another, this tyke will have to deal with his resentment of Tohru and his affection for Kisa!

Fruits Basket Volume 7
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To be continued in Volume 7...

Year of the Rabbit: Splitting Hares



Men born in the year of the Rabbit tend to be courteous and refined, and carry themselves like true gentlemen. They are resourceful, and are often sought out for their strong advice, but they tend to think quite unrealistically and have a hard time dealing with misfortune.

Female Rabbits tend to be very serious people, but they love company. Among friends, they are very considerate and caring; however, when it comes to their taste in men, women rabbits tend to be more insecure, dating guys who shower them with gifts.

Celebrity Rabbits:

Tori Amos
Aaron Carter
Phoebe Cates
Whitney Houston
Angelina Jolie
Mark McGwire
Mike Myers
Bugs Bunny

Rabbit

Years: 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023, 2035

Positive Qualities: sympathetic, affectionate, humble, creative, optimistic

Negative Qualities: too sentimental, avoids conflict

Suitable Jobs: Diplomat, Lawyer, College Professor, Actor

Compatible With: Sheep, Boar and Rat

Must Avoid: Rooster, Tiger and Horse

Ruling Hours: 5 AM to 7 AM

Season: Spring

Ruling Month: March

Sign Direction: East

Fixed Element: Wood

Corresponding Western Sign: Pisces

The year of the Rabbit--a calm year where everyone is more leisurely than normal and where days go by at seemingly carefree pace. For anyone born in this year, luck will surely follow. However, like Momiji Sohma, Rabbits often have are seen to have a frail outward appearance because they are so gentle-natured, but deep within they are strong-minded and very idealistic.

Rabbits make great companions, and their marriages are usually free of strife. Rabbits keep a mental record of both a person's good points and their mistakes, but they tend to be very forgiving as long as the mistakes do not have dire consequences. But even as Rabbits are good at offering support and advice, they find it difficult to accept advice or criticism from others. Their desire to avoid conflict can make them come off as overly sentimental or even superficial, making deep emotional connections difficult. But when it happens, the relationships they form are very strong.

* Note: If you were born in January or early February, then chances are you are probably the animal of the preceding year. The only way to know for certain is to know on which day Chinese New Year's was held. Example: 1987 actually began on January 29, so anyone born between January 1 and January 28 is actually a Tiger.